

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to penalise and educate industrial consumers of coal for wastage of about eight million tonnes of coal because of unscientific practices of storage, handling, preparation and combustion;

(b) if so, the details of the said plan; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not doing so ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL : (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (c) Government have set up a Fuel Efficiency Committee for coal sector on 17.8.84 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Coal, with a view to promoting, *inter-alia* research and development in the utilisation of coal, to encourage fuel saving processes, to provide technical advisory services to the industrial and other consumers, etc. With these objectives in view, a publicity campaign has been launched. In the first phase, the following publications have been brought out :—

(i) "Indian Coal—An approach to improve understanding for conservation"

(ii) "Coal—Improved techniques for storage and preparation" and

(iii) "Coal—Improved techniques for efficiency in coal combustion".

These publications are being circulated widely among the coal consumers. These consumers are also being approached through their organisations like Chambers of Commerce, associations of various industries, etc.

**Purchase of Newsprint by S.T.C.**

\*174 SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the State Trading Corporation of India deciding to purchase newsprint against long term commitments

at a time when international prices of newsprint were expected to fall ;

(b) the justification for S.T.C. to have signed for 1500 tonnes of newsprint at \$ 425 F.A.S. Canadian port when the international prices were \$ 405 at that time;

(c) whether the offers received by S.T.C. at very much lower prices were rejected outright and purchases done at a higher price on the ground of commitments to long-term contract holders; and

(d) if so, why did S.T.C. not negotiate with the latter for price reductions in keeping with prevailing market prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) The State Trading Corporation entered into long term contracts during 1978-79 when there was serious supply constraint in the market and prices tended to harden.

(b) STC did not sign contract for 1,500 MT at US \$ 425 PMT FAS Canadian Port.

(c) and (d) A minimum quantity of 41,000 MT of newsprint was required to be lifted during 1985-86 in terms of contractual commitments against the long term contracts entered into during 1978-79 and renegotiated in March 1984. The price was negotiated for this quantity and settled with the long term suppliers for 1985-86 at US \$ 410 PMT FAS with 30 days interest-free credit. Taking this interest element into account, the net price works out to US \$ 404 PMT FAS.

**Amount Due to Nationalised Banks in Agricultural Sector**

\*175 SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount due to the nationalised banks in the agricultural sector, with State-wise details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : State-wise