

bly by 30th April, 1989.

Impact of Rise in Coal Prices

*100. SHRI HET RAM:
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase in the prices of coal recently and the rationale for the price hike;

Coal India Ltd.

By 13.7% from Rs. 219/- per tonne on an average to Rs. 249/- per tonne w.e.f. 1.1.1989. The revised price was arrived at after taking into account escalation in costs upto June, 1988.

(b) The price of coal was last revised in respect of Coal India Ltd. w.e.f. 23.12.1987 when the average price per tonne was fixed at Rs. 219/- per tonne. At the time of this revision, the realisation of Coal India Ltd. towards basic price was around Rs. 183/- per tonne on an average. Hence the price increase was of the order of 19%.

In the case of Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. the average price per tonne was last revised on 24.9.1988 to Rs. 270/- per tonne. At the time of this revision, the realisation of Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. was around Rs. 250/- per tonne on an average. Hence the increase in price was of the order of 8%.

(c) The impact has been estimated as around 3 paise per kilowatt hour of thermal generation on the power sector and around Rs. 150/- per tonne on steel; these are the major users of coal. The immediate impact on the wholesale price index of the 13.7% increase in the price of coal may be of the order of 0.14% on the rough and ready basis

(b) when were the prices of coal raised last and by what percentage; and

(c) its likely impact on the various sectors of economy and on the wholesale price index?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The last round of increase in coal prices was as follows:

Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd.

By 10% from Rs. 270/- per tonne on an average to Rs. 297/- per tonne w.e.f. 24.1.1989. The revised price was arrived at after escalation upto March, 1989.

that every 1% increase in the price of coal would account for 0.01% increase in the general price level.

Development of Communications in Backward Areas

768. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether this Ministry have earmarked funds for development of communications in the backward areas;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted therefor; and

(c) the total allocation made by Government, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). Funds are not earmarked separately for develop-