

Supply of Coal to Bihar

3816. SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that North Bihar industries are suffering for want of coal ;

(b) whether Government are aware that Bihar is getting coal at higher cost than other places due to non-transport by rail ; and

(c) the steps, if any, proposed to be taken to meet the situation ?

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

(a) to (c) With the increased coal production in Coal India, there is no difficulty in meeting fully the demand of consumers in North Bihar, However due to difficulties in rail movement the consumers having lower priority in rail movement are not getting their full requirements by rail. Consumers have been allowed to obtain their rail shortfall by road from specified collieries. Coal is also being made available at consuming points in different states through Coal India Ltd.'s stockyards as well as by arranging ex-wagon deliveries.

Government only fix pit head prices. The consumers' price of coal varies from place to place depending not only on the cost and mode of transportation but also on varying rates of royalty and other statutory charges.

Revision of Coal Prices

3817. SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times coal prices have been revised since 1972-73 till date ;

(b) the price of coal in 1972-73 and its price now ; and

(c) the ratio between wages and price rise ?

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

(a) Since nationalisation of coal mines, coal prices have been revised six times.

(b) At the time of nationalisation, the average pit-head price of coal was Rs. 37.50 per tonne. At present the average pit-head price of coal produced by Coal India Limited is Rs. 183.00 per tonne and that of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited is Rs. 192.00 per tonne.

(c) The average earning per man-shift of workers at current price in 1973-74 was Rs. 16.49 and in 1983-84 was Rs. 81.51. Compared with 1973-74 both the wages and prices have increased by about five times.

Note Sent by Unions of L.I.C. Employees Reg. Splitting of L.I.C.

3819. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India Employees unions have sent him a note pointing out that splitting up of the Corporation could have dangerous consequences ;

(b) if so, his reaction thereto ; and

(c) whether he proposes to consider greater decentralisation of L.I.C. work among branches as an alternative as suggested in the note ?

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

(a) and (b) Government have received a number of representations from several quarters regarding the possible implications of a reorganisation of LIC and have noted the contents thereof.

(c) Decentralisation of L.I.C. work to the Branches from procurement of new business to settlement of maturity claims has already been effected in all the Divisions except Bombay and Calcutta.

Benefits to Service Exports

3820. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he expects the volume of "Services Exports" to grow in the coming years;

(b) if so, whether "Services Exports" also will be eligible for the same type of benefits as are available to export of commodities and manufacturers; and