

cases would be listed for appropriate orders in the light of the judgement.

For the recovery of the amounts of Central Excise duty in cases of pending assessments, the steps initiated were for finalisation of pending assessments by the Collectorates of Central Excise, moving the judicial and quasi-judicial authorities before whom cases were pending, for deciding them in the light of the Supreme Court judgement and moving the Supreme Court for giving decisions in individual cases etc. referred to above.

In those cases where pending assessments were finalised in terms of the Supreme Court judgement, steps were also initiated for realisation of the final duty amounts due.

No individual case having a bearing on post manufacturing expenses pertaining to the tyre industry has yet been decided by the Supreme Court or the High Courts.

Decline in wholesale Price Index

*98 SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a downward trend in the wholesale price index during the last one year;

(b) if so, the percentage of decline; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that the downward trend continues ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) to (c). The level of Wholesale Price Index (1970-71=100) was 337.6 (provisional) on 5th January 1985 compared with the level of 321.0 on 7th January 1984. The annual rate of inflation on 5th January 1985 was 5.2 per cent as compared to 10.6 per cent at the

same time last year. Government keeps a close watch over the price situation and takes such measures as are necessary to keep the prices under reasonable control. In particular, steps have been taken to build up the buffer stock of foodgrains, ensure adequate availability of other sensitive commodities such as sugar and edible oils, and restrain the expansion of aggregate demand in the economy.

U.S. Military Presence in Indian Ocean

*105 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S. Military presence in the Indian Ocean has been increasing in keeping with the development and sophistication of technologies in support of antisatellite and space war; and

(b) if so, the details and Union Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b) Over a period of years there has been a general, though occasionally fluctuating, upward trend in the Naval presence of the U.S. in the Indian Ocean. Development of U.S. Naval forces in support of anti satellite and space war has not been established although the possibility cannot be ruled out.

The Government of India maintains a constant vigil over the induction of modern arms into the Indian Ocean with a view to updating its naval plans to meet emerging situations.

On the diplomatic front, Government have supported and striven for the Indian Ocean region to remain a zone of peace.

Increase in Coal Prices

*110. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) number of times coal prices have been raised after nationalisation;

(b) details and reasons thereof;

(c) its impact on common people, industries and general price situation; and

(d) gains accrued to coal producing

States from such regular increase in coal prices ?

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

(a) Coal Prices have been revised six times since nationalisation.

(b) The details of the revision are as under :—

Date of revision	Average pit-head price (per tonne)		Price of soft-coke
	Coal India Limited	Singareni Collieries Company Limited	
14.4.1974	Rs. 47.50	Rs. 50.50	Rs. 86.00
1.7.1975	Rs. 64.92	Rs. 67.65	Rs. 86.00
17.7.1979	Rs. 101.18	Rs. 99.92	Rs. 110.00
14.2.1981	Rs. 128.02	Rs. 136.85	Rs. 150.00
27.5.1982	Rs. 145.90	Rs. 154.75	Rs. 175.00
8.1.1984	Rs. 183.00	Rs. 192.00	Rs. 175.00

Increase in coal prices has been necessitated due to increase in the cost of production caused by escalations in the costs of inputs, such as labour, power, stores, explosives, petroleum, oil and lubricants, higher incidence of depreciation and interest charges etc. The wages of the workers have gone up considerably after nationalisation on account of the three National Coal Wage Agreements which became effective from 1/1/1975,

1/1/1979 and 1/1/1983. Cost of labour accounts for about 60 per cent of the total cost of production of coal.

(c) The impact of the price revision on consuming industries has not been very significant. The impact of the last price revision which became effective from 8.1.1984, on major user industries like Railways, Steels Power and Cement had been estimated as under :—

Industry	Impact as % of total cost
Railways	1.86
Steel	3.5
Power	1.5 to 1.7
Cement	4.39

The price of the common man's fuel, soft coke was not increased during the last price revision. This price has been retained at Rs. 175.00 per tonne which is the price prevailing since 1982 and is considerably lower than the actual cost of manufacture of this fuel.

(d) No direct gain accrues to the coal producing States on account of revision of coal prices. However, indirectly the States gain as sales tax is levied by the States on sales of coal and is usually on an *ad-valoram* basis. Though royalty on coal, payable to the State Governments, is fixed on tonnage basis and not linked to the prices of coal, cesses on coal are levied by some of the State Governments which have also gone up with the upward revision of coal prices. The rates of cesses are not uniform and vary from State to State as well as from year to year.

National Cadet Corps as Second Line of Defence

*111. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Advisory Committee of the National Cadet Corps has recommended that the organisation should be developed as a second line of defence;

(b) if so, whether the Committee felt that the NCC training at present laid more emphasis on adventure and in a way neglected the military aspect;

(c) if so, whether Government have considered this proposal seriously in view of the possible threat from the neighbouring countries;

(d) if not, the main reasons thereof; and

(e) the other steps being taken to improve the second line of defence ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (e) The Central Advisory Committee of the NCC has not recommended that the Organisation should be developed as a second line of defence. However, during the Committee's discussions on 15-3-1984 on a question whether an Evaluation Committee should be appointed to go into the questions of the aims, objectives, training programmes and achievements of the NCC, the possibility of using the NCC as a second line of defence was mooted.

2. The Central Advisory Committee recommended that a Committee, headed by the Raksha Rajya Mantri be constituted to go into all these aspects. The constitution of the Evaluation Committee is under consideration.

[Translation]

Generation of Black Money in Film Industry

*112. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of large-scale generation of black money in the film industry ;

(b) if so, have Government investigated into the reasons for large-scale generation of such money in the film industry and, if so their findings ;

(c) action taken by Government to check in flow of black money in the film industry and the results thereof ; and

(d) whether Government propose to take stringent measures against the people in the film industry indulging in investment of black money and evasion of income-tax ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Govern-