

MR. SPEAKER: You are happy about Shri Acharia's elaborate question.

SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF: As a Member of Parliament belonging to the area he might have visited. But I am sure, he will be glad to know that I also visited the area.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: During by-election.

SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF: No, not during by-election. I even went to the extent of visiting an underground mine about 1300 ft down to see the working conditions of the people and the workers were emotional when I went and saw them to find out how they were working (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Did they beat you up?

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF: Please bear with me. It is very easy to ... (*Interruptions*)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Everybody has one's own personal experience when one goes to meet workers (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF: My point was that what we share here on the floor of the House to make it appear in the press and try to gain popularity is one thing. If you can go and share with the workers there on the spot, it make a lot of difference.

I would like to say that on Jheria coalfields what he has said is correct. They are doing it. It is the question of the magnitude of the problem and the responsibility. Therefore, the Government is spending nearly Rs. 24 crores every year for the subsidence. We have recently come out with a new project which has been tried. The project involves the technique of Hydro Pneumatic Stowing in which a sand and water slurry is pumped underground through surface boreholes and the spread of this slurry is monitored by geophysical method. It is something like making a paste and pushing it through the holes. It is

on an experimental basis. Once it is done, we will continue to go ahead and then try to complete it.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The hon. Minister has said that the policy of coal nationalisation was for better mine management. But is he aware of another kind of a problem that in some areas of Assam because of open cast mining the topography has been destroyed and the environment has been polluted? I had the occasion to write even to the Prime Minister about it, enclosing some reports from some science experts. But except for the acknowledgement which we normally get, the reply has not followed it. I was promised in this House by Shri Vasant Sathe that he will enquire and let us know about it. May I know whether any inquiry has been made in this regard and what is the outcome of that inquiry?

SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF: Sir, in fact the other days some Member, had come from Assam. We told them that we very much wanted to go over there and hold discussions and see what best we can do. This is not the problem only confining to Assam. Wherever open cast mines are there, this kind of problem will be there. But it is our endeavour to see how best we can be able to help. I assure that after this monsoon we are prepared to go there and see the conditions, and try to sit with the State Government and see what best we can do.

[*Translation*]

Demand of Coal in Industrial Sector

*372. SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA†:
SHRI RAM DHAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal producing organisations are unable to meet the increasing demand of coal of the industrial sector in the country;

(b) if so, the quantum of demand of coal, of textile, paper, ceramic, vanaspati and engineering industries in each of the last two years;

(c) the quantum of coal supplied to each in the last two years;

(d) the reasons for supplying less quantity of coal;

(e) whether any efforts were made to overcome the reasons for which less quan-

tity of coal was supplied; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the steps taken in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) to (f). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) No, Sir.

(b) (and (c)). Demand of coal assessed by Planning Commission for industries in the non-core sector including textiles, paper, ceramics, vanaspati, engineering industries and captive power plants during 1986-87 and 1987-88, supplies of coal against the same and satisfaction level achieved were as under:-

(Figures in m. tonnes)

Year	Demand	Supplies	% Satisfaction
1986-87	31.41	30.35	96.6
1987-88	33.70	32.13	95.3

Supplies from Coal India accounted for 27.34 m.t. (90.1%) and 29.27 m.t. (91.1%) respectively in the two years. Industrywise supplies from Coal India are given in the table below:-

(Figure in Lakh tonnes)

Industry	1986-87	1987-88
1	2	3
Textile	22.55	24.82
Paper	24.55	25.32
Vanaspati	2.88	2.41
Ceramics	7.79	7.62

	1	2	3
Other including Engineering Industries		215.60	232.52
TOTAL		273.37	292.69

(d) to (f). It will be seen from the level of demand satisfaction achieved that requirement of the consumers has, by and large, been almost fully met. However, there have been occasional shortfall in certain regions due to various constraints for which remedial action is taken from time to time. The targets of production of coal are so fixed as to permit

full satisfaction of the anticipated demand.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, I had put the question with the hope that the Minister will reply and examine the difficulties being faced due to short supply. According to my information, P.H.D. Chambers of Commerce and Industry, in a survey, has said that the coal was in short supply by over sixty per cent compared to forty three per cent in the previous quarter. But in the Statement given here, the Minister stated that the supply position had touched to 96.6 per cent, almost one hundred per cent. So, will the Minister recheck the statistics because according to not only P.H.D. Chambers of Commerce and Industry but also Indian Cotton Mills Federation and many other Associations have complained, papers have written, that there was short supply of coal. I want to know whether you will recheck the statistics because to me, the statistics is misleading

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF: Sir, I must tell the hon. Member that there was some problem of shortage because of the failure of monsoon during the last year. Everybody was aware that for the last two or three years, the rainfall was not good. So, the hydel generation has gone down and the burden on the Thermal Plants was more. So, we were meeting the requirements of the power houses more than any other thing. This year the monsoon is being favourable, there should not be any difficulty. As I said in the report, in some of the sectors which the hon. Member has mentioned, i.e. in non-core sector, we have been able to meet the requirement. It is not that we are giving any wrong figures or overestimated figures. But I must tell the hon. Member that there been some cases, which had come to our notice that sponsoring agencies of the State Government over estimated it and sent the report. We have asked them to recheck. I assure you that if there are any problems in a particular area or in industry, we are prepared to look into the matter.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, may I ask through you one clari-

fication? In both core and non-core sectors, the import of coal is increasing. For the last year 1987-88, the coal imported was for Rs. 200 crores and for 1988-89, it is likely to go further. Hindustan Paper Mills, Kerala had floated a tender to import fifty thousand tonnes of coal. So, when non coking coal is in abundance in the country, why you are permitting the import of coal at the loss of foreign exchange.

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF: My hon. friend was referring to the Kerala State. I must confess that there is some problem in the southern sector mostly because of the movement and also the cost of the coal may be more to them as they have to carry it from long distances. Also there is the problem in the movement pattern. Actually the southern sector is linked with Singareni. Singareni is under the management and control of Andhra Pradesh. For some time, there was some labour problem. Now that problem is not much there. But because of the heavy monsoon, the production has a little bit gone down. It is not for any reason that the coal is not available there. We are prepared to offer coal provided they are prepared to take it wherever it is available.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no co-ordination between the Coal Department and the Rail Department. Due to this, there is a difficulty in loading of goods. I will like to know the Hon. Minister through you whether in consultation with Ministry of Railways he would try to have an effective coordination between both the Departments which may facilitate easy loading of goods and avoid thefts. Have you got any such proposal?

[English]

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF: Fortunately, I do not find such a problem because I had earlier been with the Railways. Since it is one Government under one leadership, we do not believe in shifting the responsibility on one another. It is a total responsibility of

the Government and we have total commitment to the people. I assure the hon. Member that such kind of things will not happen. We are fully competent to take care of such problems.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: The hon. Minister has just now told us about the importance of Singareni collieries which have to supply coal to several thermal power stations not only in Andhra Pradesh but several other southern states also. Also a large number of industries depend upon this. In the absence of adequate quantity of coal cement units also closed down during the summer months. Because of abundant availability of rich quality coal near Maruguru, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what concrete steps are being taken to bring out coal through the open cast process so that coal linkage can be given to super thermal power station which is proposed at Maruguru as well as Vijayawada power station State III.

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF: I think, the hon. Member is aware that so far as Singareni coalfields are concerned, the Government of India is not only holding 49 per cent shares but also in all the plan allocations we have been assisting to the fullest possible extent. We know the importance of Singareni coal mines which take care of the entire south. There should no be any paucity of funds. About the project which the hon. Member has mentioned, I do not have the details of it here I will write about it to him.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that coal industry is in key sector and its production has increased by seven per cent during the last year. This is a good achievement of this sector. So, far as power houses are concerned, each one has stocks of coal for 7 to 15 days. One more thing, about the sick industries. In West Bengal and at other places many industries have gone sick. These sick industries are also getting Coal

which they sell in black market. I want to know from the hon Minister through you whether distribution arrangements for coal will be received so that the Key industries may get regular supply of coal.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

National Subscriber Dialling Facilities During Eighth Plan

*365. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has formulated any objectives and programmes for the Eighth Plan with regard to the provision of telecom facilities during the plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has been proposed to link on National Subscriber Dialling all the headquarters of district sub-division, tehsil/ sub-tehsil/ block levels and head quarters of the Police Stations;

(d) if so, the exact programme drawn up in this regard; and

(e) if not, whether all the category stations mentioned in part (c) would be covered under the National Subscriber Dialling in the Eighth Plan and the objectives and programmes formulated accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) to (e). The tentative objectives formulated for the Eighth Plan are:

- Automatisation of all manual exchanges.