

SHRI C.M. STEPHEN : This is one of the reasons why we have got to think twice before we decide to divide them up. The postal department the world over is a losing proposition. The question is whether the general revenue or the total communication system should foot the loss. If the total communication system has got to foot the loss, then the totality of it has got to be maintained. Otherwise we consider that the revenue on the telephone side will be all right, because it is viable and as far as the postal side is concerned, the General Revenue will have to foot the bill for which there will be a limit, which means expansion of postal service in the villages will be in jeopardy. This is also one of the factors which was weighing with us when we considered this matter.

Exclusion of Coal Mining Projects linked with Super Thermal Projects and Giant Steel Plants from 1982-83 Plan

*230. **SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for leaving out coal mining projects linked with the super thermal power projects and the giant steel plants in the 1982-83 plan ;

(b) whether that will not affect the annual power generation and the annual steel production of the country ;

(c) whether that will compel the Government for unnecessary import of steel from other countries at an exorbitant price ; and

(d) the justification for effecting a cut in the annual plan outlays ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) Coal projects linked to Super Thermal Power Projects and Steel Plants have not been excluded from the scope of 1982-83 Annual Plan.

(b) to (d). No, Sir. Do not arise.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Sir, I want to put a straight question as to :

(a) whether the Coal Department proposed to the Planning Commission to allocate Rs. 900 crores for the development of coal companies for 1982-83, but the Planning Commission indicated that Rs. 750 crores will be allocated. Then how the development programme of coal mining projects will be completed ?

(b) May I know what are the new coal mining projects that will be linked with the giant steel plants proposed to be set up at Paradeep and Vizag during the 1982-83 Annual Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the allocation for the Annual Plan, 1982-83; for the Coal India at the present moment is Rs. 702 crores. The question of providing additional funds during 1982-83 and during the Sixth Plan for accelerating the development of coal mines is also under consideration. I think the coal industry will be able to meet the full demand of coal for the power sector for 1982-83. I presume no difficulties except of transportation for which the Railways are doing their best to fulfil our target.

If the coal mining project or the power project is linked up, we supply the coal. There is a Linkage

Committee and in the Linkage Committee, if the linkage is allowed, then it is the obligation of Coal Department to supply coal.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : The second part of my question has not been answered. What about the coal mining projects that will be linked with the giant steel plants ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : Whether the Linkage Committee has given the linkage or not I do not have information with me at the present moment.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Will you give the answer later ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : Yes, I will give afterwards.

SHRI SATISH AGGARWAL : At the time of West Bengal elections. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Sir, regarding the Annual Plan of 1982-83, according to the Working Group on coal, the coal demand is expected to be around 137 million tonnes. The coal production target has been fixed at 133 million tonnes. The gap remains about 4 million tonnes. I want to know how the gap will be met, in the quantity of coking coal or coal necessary for the steel plants and the thermal plants, and what is the quantity of coal that will be imported during 1982-83 and the total amount involved. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI A. B. A. GAANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the target of coal production for 1982 fixed by the Planning Commission is 133 million tonnes. However, in view of the growing demand for coal in the coming

years, it has been decided by the coal companies to raise this target to 136 million tonnes. This is to be on the safe side. Apart from that we have more or less stock of 20 million tonnes on the pit heads. This has also to be taken into account.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Are we not going to import ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : About import, that is another aspect of the matter. Some imports of coking coal are being done by the Ministry of Steel to improve the quality of coal fed to steel plants. Indian washed coking coal is of 20% ash, while the imported coking coal is of 10% ash. For the quality purposes we have to import washed coal. Some times we mix up to improve our quality and also for the purpose of cushion.

SHRI A.K. ROY : There was a report that there was a large stock of coking coal on the pit head. In view of that, is there any attempt to wash that coal to a better quality so that we can avoid the import of coking coal in the country? Is there any programme or scheme in the Sixth Five Year Plan ?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : Steps are separately being taken to explore technology for improving washing techniques to reduce ash content of the Indian coal. That is being looked into.

SHRI A. K. ROY : Besides what is contemplated in the Sixth Five Year Plan, is there any other concrete plan to reduce the ash content of the coking coal ?

SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI : The only plan is to have new washeries with new technology. That we are doing.