

tions under which the Fazal Committee was constituted; and when it was constituted.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: The Fazal Committee was constituted last year. By the fog end of the year the report was given. It was passed on to us by the Finance Ministry. The Finance Ministry has to deal with it, and the question should be referred to the Finance Ministry. *(Interruption)* I said: fog end of last year. About the date, I will give you later.

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA: I would like to know from the Minister whether the Company Law Board was consulted before constituting the Fazal Committee, and whether the Government would again send the findings of the Fazal Committee, for approval, to the Company Law Board.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: I have said that the Fazal Committee was constituted by the Finance Ministry, and that the question should be referred to the Finance Ministry. It does not relate to our Ministry. We are considering the report which has been sent by the Finance Ministry.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Is it the Finance Ministry, or the Ministry of Energy? Sir, you had admitted it in the name of the Ministry of Energy. It is your responsibility to see that the papers are allotted to different Ministries. And this question relates to the Finance Ministry.

Royalty on Coal

*708. **SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2905 on 10th March, 1981 regarding 'Royalty on Coal' and state:

(a) what is the basis of fixation of royalty on coal for each State concerned;

(b) whether Government of West Bengal proposed a different formula in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The rates of royalty on minerals including coal are governed by Section 9 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act 1957. The Act, inter alia, also provides that the rate of royalty shall not be enhanced in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of four years. The rate of royalty on coal has been fixed on a tonnage basis.

(b) and (c). The Government of West Bengal had suggested fixation of royalty rate on ad-valorem basis for all grades of coal. This matter was carefully considered by a Study Group appointed by the Department of Coal and subsequently by Government; and it was finally decided to continue the practice of adhering to fixation of rates of royalty on a tonnage basis.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Firstly, he has mentioned the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act 1957—when my friend Mr. Vikram Mahajan was perhaps in his shorts. *(Interruption)* It is relevant because it has become totally out-dated. At that time, the price per tonne of coal was only a fraction of what the price is today. *(Interruptions)* He does not mind a small joke; but his *chamchas* here are shouting all the time.

Section 9(3) says: "The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, amend the Second Schedule"; and what they have read out as the proviso, is correct, viz. that they cannot enhance it more than once in four years. But the Second Schedule unfortunately is so much out of date and irrelevant today. The Government should have taken steps to amend it. The Second Schedule says with regard to Section 9 as follows:

"Group I coals:

Bengal-Bihar coalfields:

(a) Coking coal: Grades A, B and C.

(b) Non-coking coal: Selected Grade A".

All the eggs have been put in the same basket. Would the hon. Minister kindly tell us about it? I would prefer the Senior Minister to say something about it, if he chooses to do so. I cannot compel him nor you can compel him, Sir. What is the real F.O.R. price of coals of the grades that have been put in the same basket—Coking coal: grades A, B and C and Non-coking coal: Selected Grade A? What are the F.O.R. prices prevailing as on date? Of course, my second supplementary would be different and I will ask that later on.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: It is not possible to give them, because it depends on different mines; because in a few cases F.O.R. also depends on the transport and so on. It depends on the transport cost for each mine, in such cases. (Interruptions) Let me answer it. Substantially, we have revised the royalty rate and Bengal would be able to get an additional amount. (Interruptions) Under old royalty rate, they would have got about Rs. 8 crores. Now they will get about Rs. 12 crores. That's the difference. Secondly, they have raised the cesses on the coal which they were entitled to raise, but we have told them not to raise them, because they were frozen at the old rates. But still they have raised the cesses and they will get an additional amount from that particular money. The question today is whether the consumer should be fleeced or he should be given coal at a reasonable rate. We have taken a decision that coal should be given to consumers at a reasonable rate. Thirdly, the question is whether the Act is outmoded or not. It is a matter of opinion. We do not agree.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: My question has not been replied to because I have not asked the F.O.R. price on colliery basis; I have asked the F.O.R. price on grade basis? What is the F.O.R. price of coking coal grade A? What is the F.O.R. price of coking coal grade B? What is the F.O.R. price of coking coal grade C; and what is the F.O.R. price of non-coking coal Selected Grade A? Let the Minister answer them and then I will put my second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: This can be sent to him.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Why?

MR. SPEAKER: You give him a notice.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: (Interruptions) No, that's is relevant to this question. May I point out for your kind information that Mr. Vikram Mahajan, about whom I have a better impression compared to what his senior colleague, said that the West Bengal Government is going to get about Rs. 12 crores. If you see the reply to Unstarred Q. No. 2905 of 10th March, 1981, you will find that according to your statement, it is Rs. 10.85 crores; it is not Rs. 12 crores. This is how the House has been treated. You kindly see that they do not do any home work. They totally depend on the bureaucrats. If you scratch them a little deep they cannot say anything. Now, this is an Annexure. Four different grades have been put in the same basket—four different grades altogether substantially varying one from another. They do not say, whether it is a pithead price or the F.O.R. price. F.O.R. means free on rail for their education. That includes pithead, carrying, loading, sealing and other expenses. I would like to ask from the hon. Minister to whom I have to put a second supplementary—as to what is the F.O.R. price grade-wise as stated in the Second Schedule Group I coals?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): The question does not come within the purview. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I will leave it to you. (*Interruptions*) They are not fit to be Lower Division Clerks. (*Interruptions*) I will show you this. I have got a copy of the Act. The Act refers to this. On page 4, it says as follows:

“The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, amend the Second Schedule so as to enhance....”

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The royalty is according to the tonnage.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: It has put four grades together. I am asking it because the price of the grades vary substantially. The difference in price between grade A coal and grade C coal could be double.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I am asking, for the information of the House, as to what is the f.o.r. price of Grade A coal. There are four grades in that. I am asking for the f.o.r. price as fixed by the Government, as required by law.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: The question is quite clear. For the question asked the answer is there. There are two opinions. One is the royalty which is fixed on tonnage basis. There is another opinion.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: That has nothing to do with the grades. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: There is another opinion.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any difference between one grade and the other?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: There is. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: It is bound to be there. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What according to the Schedule, are they required to pay? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Ask him to table a question.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You have not got it. (*Interruptions*) He does not know. He has not got it. (*Interruptions*) My second question is th's. The country is reeling under two most important things; Power and coal. And this Minister does not know even the f.o.r. prices of coal. (*Interruptions*) My second question is.... (*Interruptions*)

My second question is the price of coal.... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. K. K. TIWARY: Sir, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu has compared the Minister with a clerk. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I did not. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, please.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Why should I insult a clerk? (*Interruptions*) Why should I insult a clerk? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know how it could be degrading.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: My second question is, that the price of coal at the present moment fixed, is far below what the market can afford to pay, in the sense that, you know, Sir, in Punjab it is Rs. 1,200 per tonne. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want it to be reduced?

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: No, no. I want to say that coal should get an equivalent value because of the middleman and the present problems for getting hard coke even at Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 per tonne.... (*Interruptions*) That is being sold in the market. Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us the price, taking into consideration the qualities, outside the provisions of the Act? The actual price should be reviewed by a committee of knowledgeable people who know coal mining and who are not interested and involved in the business. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: The question does not arise. (*Interruptions*) Prior to 1968 Royalty under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 was payable on the basis of fixed pound value. (*Interruptions*) The Study Group on Royalties, Rates and Development for Mining Areas had pointed out various difficulties.... (*Interruptions*) He should not have.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Question hour in over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS T.V. Centre at Aurangabad and Nasik

*705. **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the fact that there is a demand from the Aurangabad and Nasik area (Maharashtra) a T.V. Centre is to be opened there; and

(b) if so, upto what time the T.V. Centre is expected to be opened in Nasik and Aurangabad (Maharashtra)?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). Due to constraints on resources, it is not proposed to set up a T.V. centre in Aurangabad and Nasik areas in Maharashtra during the Sixth Plan period (1980—85). The requirement of these places would be kept in view while formulating future plans for expansion of television in the country.

High Speed Diesel Oil for various States

*709. **SHRI K. MALLANNA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have made any assessment regarding the utilisation of high speed diesel oil of the various States (State-wise) since January, 1980;

(b) if so, whether the quantity supplied to the State of Karnataka is sufficient according to the demand made by the State;

(c) whether there has been any gap between the demand and supply of the high speed diesel oil to the State of Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take to improve the position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) This Ministry makes a monthly allocation of High Speed Diesel Oil (HSD) to the States and Union Territories. Further break-up of the allocation as between the different diesel consuming sectors like agriculture, transport, industry, etc. is to be done by the State Governments themselves. The States have been advised to fix inter-sectoral priorities for different uses of HSD and to regulate its distribution accordingly.

(b) and (c). The Government of Karnataka has, in recent months, indicated a quantity of 47,000 tonnes of HSD as the minimum monthly requirements of the State. The sales of HSD in the State in the period January, 1980 and February, 1981 ranged between 33,760 and 48,000 tonnes per month. The supply position of HSD in Karnataka is generally satisfactory now.

(d) The demand for HSD in Karnataka was generally met in the above period. In fact, in certain months, the HSD offtake was lower than the allo-