

ther it is the best possible. Because, in Japan for 2,000 cubic metre blast furnace they could get as much as 5,000 tonnes of pig iron whereas we have been able to get only 3,000 tonnes and in some cases it is only 1,500 tonnes. A lot of technical improvements will have to be carried out, a lot of research work will have to be carried out to get the maximum out of our own quality of iron ore and coal to get the maximum production.

DR. H. P. SHARMA: The Government has denied the statement that the cost of production of steel is higher in India than in Europe or Japan. How does the Government reconcile this with the position that Japan imports iron ore from this country, pays railway freight and shipping charges, carries it for 6,000 to 7,000 miles over the sea and can yet outsell us in the world market?

SHRI T. A. PAI: Japan has been able to do it not only in respect of steel but even in respect of textiles because there is considerable amount of application of science and technology in order to overcome these problems. They have access to the best quality iron ore, best quality coal and the best of shipping which is responsible for their products being competitive.

राष्ट्रीयकरण के पश्चात् कोयले के निर्धारित मूल्य

* 166. श्री कूलचन्द्र वर्मा : क्या इस्पात और खान मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कोयला खानों के राष्ट्रीयकरण के तुरन्त बाद कोयला उद्योग की संयुक्त कार्य समिति ने कोयले की विभिन्न किस्मों के मूल्य घोषित किये थे ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कोयले की विभिन्न किस्मों के मूल्य क्या क्या थे ;

(ग) क्या ये मूल्य रेलवे और बिजली पैदा करने वाले कारखानों जैसे सरकारी उपभोक्ताओं द्वारा स्वीकार कर लिये गये थे ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उन्होंने कब से इन दरों के अनुसार भुगतान करना आरम्भ किया ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the pit head prices of various categories of coal before the nationalisation of coal mines is laid on the Table of the house. The same prices continued to be charged after nationalisation.

(c) The prices payable by the Railways and many of the power Boards are governed by the terms of the contracts which were in force at the time of nationalisation.

(d) The Coal Mining Authority has been billing all consumers at the notified price and asking them to pay the same rate subject to adjustment of subsisting agreements. They have been receiving payment at the notified price in many cases and with the ratification of the old agreements necessary adjustments will be made wherever necessary.

Statement

Prices of coal effective from 1st December, 1972.

Bengal-Bihar coalfields

Grade of coal	Steam	Slack
1	2	3
	Rs.	Rs.
Selected A	48.00	47.00
Selected B	45.00	42.00
Grade I	42.00	39.00
Grade II	38.00	35.00

	Steem Rs.	Slack Rs.
1	2	3
Grade IIIA . . .	35.89	32.62
Grade IIIB . . .	34.74	31.45
<i>Outlying fields M.P. Maharashtra and Orissa</i>		
Selected	46.50	44.50
Grade I	44.25	41.25
Grade II	42.25	39.25
Grade III	41.25	38.25

श्री फूलचन्द बर्मा : मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि कोयले की जो विभिन्न किस्में हैं राष्ट्रीयकरण के पहले जो उन का भाव था, उस भाव में निश्चित रूप से वृद्धि हुई है, तो उस के क्या कारण हैं वृद्धि करने के ?

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA: It is true that we have got different categories of coal. As I have already said in my answer, the pit-head price has not been increased. But, unfortunately, the price of coal in the rest of the country has gone up because some unscrupulous traders have taken advantage of the short supply of coal throughout the country. That is one of the reasons why it has gone up.

श्री फूलचन्द बर्मा : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने स्वीकार किया कि कुछ व्यापारी कोयले की अनुपलब्धि का लाभ उठा रहे हैं। मैं दिल्ली का उदाहरण आप के सामने रखूंगा। जहाँ कोयले के वितरण में जो घांघली चल रही है, आज कुकिंग गैस मिल नहीं रही है, कोयले के भाव दुगुने हो रहे हैं और उस में व्यापारी ब्लैकमाकेटिंग कर रहे हैं, ग्राम आदमी को आज जलाने को कोयला नहीं मिलता न कोई और चीज मिलती है, उस का जीना दूभर हो गया है तो आप जब स्वीकार करते हैं कि व्यापारी गड़बड़ करते हैं वितरण व्यवस्था के

अन्दर तो सरकार कौन से ऐसे कदम उठाने जा रही है जिस से व्यापारी गड़बड़ न कर सके और ग्राम जनता को समय पर ठीक मूल्य पर और ठीक वितरण व्यवस्था के अनुसार कोयला मिल सके ?

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA: We have asked the State Governments to open coal dumps in their States at different important points. The Coal Mining Authority will supply coal to coal dumps and from the coal dumps, it is the duty of the State Governments to see that the coal is equally distributed to all consumers.

श्री फूलचन्द बर्मा : मेरे प्रश्न का ठीक जवाब नहीं मिला। वितरण व्यवस्था ठीक करने के लिये क्या करेंगे ? आप ने जो अपनी योजना बताई उस को मूर्त्त रूप देने के लिये जो व्यापारी गड़बड़ कर रहे हैं उन के खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही करेंगे ?

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA: That matter should be looked into by the State Governments.

SHRI CHAPALENDU BHATTACHARYYA: The Minister said a little while ago that the sale of coal to some power generating units is being sold under certain contracts. Now, here is a case where the contract between the Bihar Electricity Board and the N.C.D.C. has expired on 31st March. The contract stipulated sale of coal at Rs. 27 per tonne. But even in the month of November, the N.C.D.C. is continuing to supply coal to Barauni at Rs. 27 per tonne. That contract has not been renewed. The N.C.D.C. is advancing that as an excuse for not opening certain coal areas in Giridih so that employment potential can immediately go up.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T. A. PAI): What the hon. Member has been suggesting is that the closed mines could be opened

and more labour employed. If the N.C.D.C. has not increased the price of coal to the Electricity Boards irrespective of the fact that the contract has come to an end, it is because we have not yet thought of increasing the price. About the other point that the hon. Member has raised about opening of closed mines, they will take it up independently because we are anxious to increase the output of coal.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: The price of steam coal was being raised at the rate of Rs. 3 a tonne from the year 1970-71 and 1971-72. The Railway Minister once replied in the House saying that the N.C.D.C. which is the largest producer of coal is incurring heavy losses and, therefore, there is increase in the price. May I know whether the Government will consider not to increase the price of coal simply because the N.C.D.C. is incurring losses?

SHRI T. A. PAI: I think, everybody will have to agree that, if the cost of production of any one particular unit is not covered by the price and we are asked to sell it to somebody else so that they can make a profit, it will have to be subsidised from one or the other, and even though they belong to two government concerns, both of them will have to work efficiency.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ, आप के पूर्व जो मंत्री थे मोहनकुमार मंगलम जी, उन्होंने एक प्रश्न के जवाब में कहा था जिस समय 6 रुपये का 40 किलों कोयला घर में जलाने का मिलता था और जब कोयले की खान सरकार ने अपने हाथ में ली तो 12 रुपये का 40 किलों घर में जलाने का कोयला मिलने लगा, तब उन से सवाल पूछा गया तो उन्होंने कहा कि दाम और बढ़ने वाले हैं, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि घर में जलाने के कोयले का दाम इतना बढ़ा है और आप ने उत्तर में कहा कि कुछ व्यापारियों

के द्वारा यह बढ़ाया गया है तो कितने व्यापारी ऐसे हैं, उन की लिस्ट आप के पास है, उनके खिलाफ आप ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA: The list is with the State Governments and not with us.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : दिल्ली में कितने हैं? दिल्ली का तो बता सकते हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्रश्न करना हो तो उस में से वह प्रश्न पैदा भी होना चाहिये। जब उन्होंने जवाब दिया स्टेट्स का तो दिल्ली के बारे में फ्रमैंड कर लिया।

Surplus Employees in MES

*170. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to cut in Defence budget, thousands of MES employees throughout the country, have been declared surplus;

(b) if so, whether the work-load in MES has increased;

(c) whether the All India-Defence Employees Federation has already taken up this issue with the Defence Ministry; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Defence Ministry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. So far about 1300 casual employees have been declared surplus. The number of Class III and Class IV employees of the MES, who are likely to be declared surplus, is approximately 8000.

(b) No, Sir. The work-load has, in fact, decreased due to drastic cut in the Defence Works Budget on account of coarstriction of resources

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The employees have been declared surplus owing to reduction in the works programme on account of