

Increased prices of some grades of Coal

2092. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. on two occasions i.e. on 22nd March, 1996 and 30th May, 1996 had increased the prices of A,B,C grades of coal, even when the Model Code of Conduct was in operation for the elections;

(b) what was the margin of increase in prices per tonne;

(c) what was the reason for such an increase; and

(d) whether due to this increase the cement industry is now importing coal which is now cheaper to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KAMI SINGH): (a) Pricing of coking coal and A, B, and C grades of non-coking coal was deregulated by the Government with effect from 22.3.1996. On and from 22.3.1996, Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited became competent to fix prices of these varieties of deregulated coal themselves. CIL revised the prices of A, B and C grades of non-coking coal with effect from 1.4.1996. There has been no further revising in prices of these grades of coal of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), a CIL subsidiary. Revision of coal prices by the Government/coal companies does not fall within the purview of Model Code of Conduct issued by the Election Commission.

(b) On account of revision of A,B and C grades of non-coking coal by CIL from 1.4.1996, the increases in prices of A,B and C grades of non-coking coal of ECL over their last regulated prices were Rs. 129/- per tonne, Rs. 106/- per tonne and Rs. 77/- per tonne respectively.

(c) The prices were revised by CIL to make them commensurate with the cost of production of coal taking into account the increase in costs since the last price fixation.

(d) The impact of price revision with effect from 22.3.1996 on the cement sector is of the order of Rs.14.16 per tonne only. Even with such increase, the price of Indian coal turns out to be cheaper than the imported coal.

Production capacity of Steel Plants in the country

2093. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-NAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the initial capacity of steel plants in the country;

(b) whether this is adequate to meet the requirement;

(c) the additional capacity coming up through new plants or extension of existing plants;

(d) whether by the year 2000 the supply will match the demand; and

(e) whether the export of steel is being made and if so to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) the installed capacity of crude steel in the country as on 31.3.96 was estimated to be 27.38 million tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir. By and large the installed capacity of steel plants in the country is adequate to meet the requirements. In addition to meeting the domestic demand, India has also emerged a major exporter of steel. We are also importing certain categories of steel products.

(c) The additional saleable steel capacity coming up as a result of current modernisation/expansion of existing steel plants (SAIL & TISCO) and the new steel plants currently under implementation would be about 9.48 million tonnes.

(d) As per the estimates made by the Ministry of Steel, the demand of finished steel during the year 2001-02 would be almost matched by the supply.

(c) Yes, Sir. During the year 1995-96, India exported about 1.5 million tonnes of saleable steel.

Fund for construction of Marriage Hall for Muslims

2094. SHRI. SAIFULLA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to give funds for construction of marriage hall for Muslims in the States; and

(b) if so, what is the progress in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) No, Sir. However, the Central Wakf Council, a statutory body established by the Central Government under the Wakf Act, receives an annual grant-in-aid from - the Central Government for execution of a scheme for development of urban Wakf proper-tids. Under the said scheme the Council gives loan assistance to Wakf Boards/ Wakf Institutions for construction of commercially viable buildings such as Shopping Complexes, Community Halls, Residential Complexes as also Marriage Halls on urban Wakf lands so that their financial position is improved and they are able to enlarge the areas of their welfare and charitable activities.

(b) Does not arise.

New Welfare Schemes for Tribals

2095. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of different welfare schemes in vogue for tribals of Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government are considering introduction of new such schemes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) The Ministry of Welfare has introduced the following schemes for the socio- economic development of the tribals in the country including those in Assam, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan:

- (1) Special Central Assistance.
 - (2) Grant under Article 275(1) of the Constitution.
 - (3) Girls Hostels for STs.
 - (4) Boys Hostels for STs.
 - (5) Ashram Schools in Tribal-Sub Plan Areas.
 - (6) Educational Complex for ST girls in Low Literacy Pockets. (This scheme is not applicable to Assam).
 - (7) Vocational Training Centres.
 - (8) Research and Training.
 - (9) Aid to Voluntary Organisations.
 - (10) Grant in aid to State Tribal Development Co-operative Corporations.
 - (11) Village Grain Bank (Introduced in the current year 1996-97 and is not applicable to Assam).
- (b) and (c) There is not proposal at present to introduce new schemes.

पुरान जाति को अनुसूचित जनजातियों की सूची में शामिल करना

2096. श्री ज्ञान रंजन: क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या बिहार में रांची जिले के सोना-हातु और तमाड़ तथा पश्चिमी सिंहभूम के इचागढ़ प्रखण्ड में पुरान जाति के लगभग 1200 परिवार रहते हैं,