

**Setting up of independent agency to determine quality of coal**

2322. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL, be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to decontrol both coking and non-coking Coal;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that quality of coal is being determined by the producers i.e. Coal Companies themselves;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to set up an independent agency to determine and fix the quality of coal to safeguard various small consumers all over the country;

(e) whether it is also a fact that accumulated losses to Coal India Limited is more than Rs. 2500 crores; and

(f) if so, what action Government propose to take to make the industry more efficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL, (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices in their interim recommendations had inter alia recommended decontrolling the prices of coking coal to steel sector and some grades of non-coking coal only. The recommendation is based on the premise that market prices of these grades are much higher than their controlled prices. The proposal if approved would mean that prices of specified grades, would largely be in line with their open market, prices.

(c) and (d) Although the initial grading is done by the coal company itself. Coal Controller, which is an independent agency has the authority

to look into any complaint and revise the grading wherever necessary.

(e) The accumulated losses of Coal India Limited as at the end of 1991-92 are Rs. 2353.99 crores.

(f) The following actions are being taken for improving the efficiency of Coal India Limited:

(1) Rationalisation of manpower.

(2) Redeployment of manpower.

(3) Promotion of Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(4) Improving productivity.

(5) Increase in production of superior grades of coal wherever available.

(6) Ensuring uninterrupted power supply.

(7) In sale programme, enforcement of 'Cash and Carry' Scheme and realisation of arrears of payment.

**Coal deposits found in Maharashtra**

2323. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMA-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Coal fields in Maharashtra State where Coal deposits have been found but mining has not yet begun;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the mining is likely to begin in these coalfields;

(d) what is the estimate of such deposits and for how many years they will last after mining begins; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons for not starting mining?