

(c) Steps taken to realise these outstanding dues are as under:—

(i) CIL have already introduced from 1-10-91, the system of linking current coal supplies to advance payments.

(ii) Earlier also, all power units commissioned after 1-4-89 were being supplied coal only against advance payments or against revolving letters of credit.

(iii) State Governments have been requested to persuade/enable State Electricity Boards to clear their outstanding dues at the earliest.

(iv) Government of India had decided to adjust all undisputed coal sales outstandings as on 31-5-90 against the Central Assistance to State Plans payable to all the State Governments, whose SEBs and Power Utilities had defaulted, in four equal instalments, spread over four years. Each annual instalment for Coal India Ltd. would amount to approximately Rs. 273 crores. The first instalment was released to CIL in 1990-91. The second instalment due in 1991-92, has also been fully released.

Discrimination in promotion of S.C.Sr. Medical Officers

1492. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that there is discrimination in the matter of promotion of Senior Medical Officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes employed in the Eastern Coalfields Limited and that they are not being given promotion;

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

(c) the number of medical officers belonging to Scheduled Castes working in the Eastern Coalfields Limited;

(d) the number of them who have been promoted during the last two years; and

(e) by when the remaining persons are likely to be promoted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Company, the allegation of discrimination is not correct.

(c) The number is 14.

(d) One Medical Officer was promoted.

(e) The remaining officers will be considered for promotion as soon as they become eligible, in accordance with the provision of the Common Coal Cadre.

Export of coal to SAARC countries

1493. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has taken any steps to promote export of coal to SAARC countries, and if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether any target for export of coal has been fixed during the year 1992-93, and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the plan to export coal will affect the supply of coal to the Thermal Power Plants in our country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Coal India Ltd have so far been exporting coal/coke to the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan, who are members of SAARC, and traditional buyers of coal from India. It has also been planned to explore markets in Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

(b) It has been planned to export coal to the neighbouring countries to the extent of 4 lakh tonnes during 1992-93.