

**Involvement of middlemen and boarders
in the cause of price rise**

1213. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the present spurt in prices is due to the activities of middlemen and hoarders who are taking advantage of the prevailing foreign exchange scarcity and have jacked up prices;

(b) if so, what corrective measures Government have taken or propose to take in this regard;

(c) whether Government intend to enact a law forbidding middlemen-ship in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The price situation in the recent months is attributable to various factors, such as increase in the procurement prices of foodgrains, excess demand against shortfall in production of some items like pulses and edible oils, foreign exchange constraints for import of these items, increase in freight rates during 1991, etc. State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to intensify action against hoarding and other malpractices, to check prices and enable easy availability of essential commodities- State Governments/U.T. Administrations are taking action under the Essential Commodities Act, etc.

(c) and (d) It is not possible to take over the entire distributive trade in the country.

**Fake recruitment in the collieries under
BCCL**

1214. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :.

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been cases of fake recruitments in the collieries under the BCCL; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take against the guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Loss of Neyveli Lignite Corporation by
flood**

1215. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) what is the loss incurred by Neyveli Lignite Corporation because of the flood in November, 1991; and

(b) what steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) The loss incurred by Neyveli Lignite Corporation in the area of production due to flood in November, 1991 is indicated below : —

Overburden	— 17.07 LM ³
Lignite	7.64 LT
Power Generation	- 424 MU

(b) Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. were instructed to take all possible steps to restore the production of lignite from the Second Mine and to ensure generation of power from the Second TPS as early as possible. Besides, the NLC Ltd. were instructed to draw up short term action plans for strengthening the surface drainage arrangements and were advised to interact with the State Government Authorities for long term measures.

Prompt actions were taken by the NLC management to dewater the Mine II. The dewatering of flood water was satisfactorily achieved by the first week of January, 1992. Parallel actions were taken by the management for recommissioning the overburden production system after making necessary retrievable operations. The overburden removal restarted from 19th November, 1991 and stabilised gradually. The lignite production was recommenced on 2nd January, 1992 after strenuous cleaning operation of flood deposit silt. All the submerged mining and electrical equipments were successfully restored and recommissioned after carrying out necessary maintenance works.

Losses suffered by the coal mines under BCCL

1216. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some coal mines under BCCL have been running under losses;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to overcome the losses; and

(c) whether Government propose to take over BCCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Coal India Limited (CIL) have informed that an action plan is being drawn up to improve the viability of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL). It includes steps for increase in production, improvement in productivity and optimum deployment of personnel so as to improve the economics, of the losing mines. However, even after these actions, some mines in Bharat Coking Coal Limited may continue to lose because of inherent geo-mining problems.

(c) Bharat Coking Coal Limited is a subsidiary of Coal India Limited, which in turn is owned by Government. As such the question of Government taking over Bharat Coking Coal Limited does not arise.

विभिन्न किस्मों के कोयले के मूल्यों के निर्धारण का आधात

1217. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार द्वारा कोयले के मूल्यों में हाल ही में की गई वृद्धि के पश्चात् किन आधातों पर विभिन्न किस्मों के कोयलों के प्रतिटन मूल्यों का निर्धारण किया गया है;

(ख) इस वृद्धि के परिणामस्वरूप कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड की लाभकारिता पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ा है;

(ग) कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड के अधीन चल रही उन कोयला खानों का ब्योरा क्या है जो घाटे में चल रही हैं तथा जो लाभ कमा रही हैं; और

(घ) इन हानियों पर काबू पाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?