

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Working Group on Coal and Lignite for the Seventh Five Year Plan set up by the Planning Commission have recommended adequate investment during the Seventh Plan period, for the development of various projects of CIL including, coking coal projects.

Shortage of coking coal during Seventh Plan period

318. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER. Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an acute shortage of coking coal is anticipated during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) It has been estimated that during the Seventh Plan period the availability of coking coal from domestic sources may be marginally short of the requirements of the steel industry. SAIL will import adequate quantities to cover the shortfall.

The following steps are being taken to increase the indigenous availability of coking coal:—

1. Reconstruction of the existing mines and the opening of new coking coal mines. A detailed Master Plan for the reconstruction of the Jharia coalfield, the only source of prime coking coal in the country, has been prepared. Its implementation is being expedited.
2. Modification and better maintenance and operation of existing washeries and setting up of new washeries with modern technology. Appropriate steps have been taken in respect of Dugda I and II

washeries and the modernisation of the Patherdih washery is being taken up. A number of new washeries have been planned to be commissioned in the Seventh Plan period to wash prime, medium and blendable coking coal.

3. Persistent shortage of power supply in Jharia coalfield has been coming in the way of increasing the production of coking coal and better performance of washeries. There is a proposal to set up coal based captive thermal power stations in the coalfield areas to provide additional power for ensuring better performance of mines and washeries.

4. A number of steps like augmenting the infrastructural facilities, setting up of workshops and other supporting services are being taken to increase the production from the Jharia coalfield.

5. As a short-term measures, Bharat Coking Coal Limited has launched a project for dewatering of submerged mines by installing special borehole pumps. This will provide some extra working areas, which will be immediately available for mining.

Price increase of steel

319. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Economic Times' of the 22nd February, 1985 captioned 'Surprise over steel price increase';

(b) whether it is a fact that the Federation of Engineering Industry of India, the Tamil Nadu Small Scale Industries Associations and others

have opposed the hike in steel prices twice in a financial year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the hike in prices of Steel has adversely affected these industries; and

(d) whether Government propose to reconsider their decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Some of the users protested against the price increase effected by the Joint Plant Committee of the main producers with effect from the midnight of February 20/21, 1985. It is expected that the impact of this price increase will only be about 0.4 per cent on the wholesale price index. The interests of the steel consumers and producers were kept in view by the Joint Plant Committee before taking this decision. There is no proposal to reconsider this decision.

Introduction of production-cum-profit improvement management system

320. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently introduced a production-cum-profit improvement management system; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) A production-cum-profit improvement management system has been introduced in the Department of Steel.

(b) the production-cum-profit improvement management system is aimed at:

(i) determining production and capacity utilisation plans and targets;

(ii) determining profit improvement plans and targets; and

(iii) laying accent on improving management system for conducting the exercise involving planning, programming implementation, monitoring and review of the entire corporate business.

As a part of this exercise, production-cum-profit improvement targets for 1984-85 were determined on the basis of discussions with the Chief Executives of Public Enterprises in the Department of Steel. A Monitoring Group with the Secretary, Department of Steel as Chairman and the senior officers of the Department as its Members, has been constituted to review the performance of Public Sector Enterprises against these targets and to take corrective action wherever necessary. In so far as Steel Authority of India (SAIL) is concerned, a detailed review is conducted by the Department of Steel with the Chairman, SAIL, Managing Directors/Executive Directors of different Steel Plants and the Functional Directors of SAIL every month.

Profits earned by State Trading Corporation

321. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of profits earned by the State Trading Corporation during the year 1984-85; and

(b) what is the estimated profit likely to be earned during the year 1985-86?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Since financial year 1984-85 has not yet come to close, it is not possible to indicate profits for 1984-85. However, according to mid