

Revamping the coal industry

*18. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of ENERGY, IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to revamp the coal industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b) Government is reviewing the present organisational set up of Coal India with a view to making it into a more effective instrument for the growth and development of the Coal Industry in the country. Certain proposals are under examination and a final decision is yet to be taken.

Shortage of coal in the country

*19. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is coal shortage in the country, if so what is the extent of the shortage;

(b) what is the annual requirement of coal in the country and what is its availability during the current year; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to remove the coal shortage?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b) As on 1-1-80 about 11.16 million tonnes of coal is available at the pitheads. Coal production during the year is estimated at about 104.3 million tonnes. The Estimated demand in 1979-80, was 118 million tonnes.

There is some shortfall in availability of the grades of coal required by

industrial units in certain part of the country and by steel plants.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

A number of steps have been taken to increase the production which include:

(i) Improving the power supply to the coal mines particularly in Bengal-Bihar through improved generation by DVC in the coalfields.

(ii) Import of explosives to make up the indigenous shortfall.

(iii) Stepping up supplies of diesel to the coal mines.

(iv) Improving the law and order situation in the Bihar-Bengal coalfield. A special cell has been constituted for this purpose by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In addition to this a constant liaison is maintained with the Railways to maximise the movement of coal to the various consumers so as to reduce distress at the consumer end. Coal companies are also releasing coal by road to consumers in distress against their sponsored quantities.

Short loading of coal in rail wagons

*20. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is continuous short loading of coal in the rail wagons; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. It is not a fact that there is continuous short loading of coal in rail wagons.