

Increase in price of coal

*90. SHRI PIARE LALL KUREEL URF
PIARE LALL TALIB: SHRI
SHIVDAYAL SINGH
CHAURASIA; SHRI KHURSHED
ALAM KHAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of coal has substantially been increased during last one year;

(b) what are the contributory causes for this sharp increase in price of coal; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to check the rising cost and unsatisfactory supply position?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) With the recovery of almost all the drowned mines in the Bengal-Bihar coalfields and with improved power supply, the production has already picked up. Import of explosive* is being done to overcome shortage of explosives. The coal companies have taken steps to identify and implement short gestation projects from which additional coal production can be quickly made available. The present level of pithead stocks which is approximately 12.0 million tonnes is adequate to meet the requirements of the consumers. Close coordination is being maintained with the Railways for improvement in wagon supplies. Movement of coal by road is also allowed wherever necessary. The cost of coal production depends on productivity, wages and the cost of inputs. In the event of the cost of inputs and the wages going up, it will not be possible to check a rise in the cost of coal production.

Installation of a T.V. station at Jullundur

*91. SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM:
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:
SHRI DEVENDRA NATH D W I
VEDI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1297 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd August, 1978 and state:

(a) by when the T. V. Centre at Jullundur is likely to be commissioned; and

(b) what are the reasons for delay in the commissioning of the Centre in accordance with the original time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): (a) An interim set-up at Jullundur is expected to be commissioned in April, 1979. The permanent set-up is expected to be ready by the end of 1979.

(b) The delay is due to late supply of equipments by the manufacturers and contractual difficulties encountered in the completion of the 200 M.R.C.C. tower, the first of its kind in the country.

Non-availability of cooking gas cylinders in some of the metropolitan cities

*92. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of non-availability of cooking gas cylinders for months together at Allahabad, Calcutta and other towns of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this acute shortage of gas cylinders; and

(c) what measures Government have taken to redress the grievances of the consumers?