

finished goods, by sea and roads between Madras port and the location of the industrial unit is given. The islands are also covered under the Rural Industries Projects Programme.

Shortage of coal

764. PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAY; SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE; SHRIMATI PRATIMA BOSE; SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN; SHRI AHMAD HOSSAIN MONDAL:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many industrial units in the country are facing serious crisis due to acute shortage of coal;

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

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to improve the coal supply in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) There is no coal shortage in the country at present. Despatches of coal during the current financial year (April—February) have been approximately 4 million tonnes more than during the corresponding period last year and the stocks of coal at the pitheads as on 1-3-1978 are around 11.60 million tonnes showing an increase of about 2 million tonnes over the stocks of the previous two months.

(c) Whenever reports of low stocks at the consumer end are received, action is taken to step up despatches to the consumers concerned.

Loss suffered by the eastern subsidiary of the N.T.C.

765. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN; SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI:

SHRI PIARE LALL KUREEL URF
PIARE LALL TALIB:
SHRIMATI SAROJ
KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the eastern subsidiary of the National Textiles Corporation is suffering heavy losses;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this subsidiary was granted over Rs. 12 crores during the last four years to modernise its plants; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Upto the end of February, 1978 an amount of Rs. 1054.64 lakhs has been granted by NTC (Holding Company) for modernisation of the mills under this subsidiary.

(c) The following steps have been taken/are being taken, to improve the working and better functioning of this subsidiary;—

(i) strengthening of the management of the subsidiary;

(ii) implementation of the modernisation programme;

(iii) seeking co-operation of the State Government of West Bengal in the implementation of voluntary labour rationalisation programme; and for supply of uninterrupted power.

Backward State

766. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps which