

Allocation of Cement to Gujarat

748. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the allocation of cement to Gujarat for the current year and ensure that the Cement is supplied to the State before the monsoon started so that the construction works already in progress may be completed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b) As against the total allocation of 4.33 lakh tonnes of cement to Gujarat (including the central sector) for the quarter January-March 1978, and the pro-rata allocation of 2.89 lakh tonnes for January and February 1978, actual despatches during these two months were 2.66 lakh tonnes accounting for 92.07 per cent of the allocations. The balance quantities are being despatched to the State during March 1978. It is expected that supply of cement to Gujarat would increase when the overall availability of cement in the country improves.

Rate of Dearness Allowance for Ex-Servicemen

749. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABI-BULLAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that servicemen have been getting dearness allowance after a rise of every 12 points, while ex-servicemen pensioners are getting dearness allowance after a rise of further 4 points;

(1) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to raise the rate of dearness allowance for exservicemen: and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) The position is that as recommended by the Third Pay Commission, the service personnel are granted dearness allowance at specific percentage rate for every 8 points increase in the 12 monthly average of the All India Consumer Price Index. In the case of Armed Forces Pensioners they are granted relief equal to 5 per cent of pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 5/- and a maximum of Rs. 25 per month as and when there is a 16 point increase in the 12 monthly average of index.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. In the matter of grant of relief to service pensioners, the orders issued by Government for civil pensioners from time to time are extended to them. No unilateral decision can, therefore, be taken in the case of service pensioners alone.

Unified Rate of Pension to Ex-Servicemen

750. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABI-BULLAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to examine the feasibility of granting a unified rate of pension to ex-servicemen according to their ranks on the basis of the post-1973 rate of pension,

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the associations of ex-servicemen in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details there, of and what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) ^presentations have been received b; the Government from ex-servicemen associations as well as individuals for making the revised rates of pension effective from 1st January 1973 also applicable to those who retired prior to 1st January, 1973.

The revised rates of pension effective from 1st January, 1973 have been determined on the basis of the revised rates of pay scales laid down from that date as a result of the acceptance of the Pay Commission's recommendations. As the individuals who retired prior to 1st January, 1973 did not draw the revised rates of pay, they cannot be given the revised rates of pension. In view of this and the financial constraints, it has not been possible to accept the above demand of the Associations etc. However, to compensate all those who retired prior to 1st January, 1973, *ad-hoc* relief ranging from Rs. 15 to Rs. 35 p.m. has been given to them. In addition, they are also entitled to periodic reliefs ranging from Rs. 35 to Rs. 175 p.m. as is admissible to those who retired on or after 1st January, 1973.

देश में कोयले के भंडारों की खोज

751. श्री सवाई सिंह सिसोदिया : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि भविष्य में बढ़ते हुए तापीय विद्युत उत्पादन की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए सरकार देश में कोयले के भंडारों की खोज करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

Exploration of coal reserves in the country

751. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the steps Government propose to take for exploring coal reserves in the country, for meeting the requirements of the increased thermal power generation in future].

ऊर्जा मंत्री (श्री पी० रामचन्द्रन) :

सरकार ने देश में कोयला भंडारों की एक विशेषकर उन भंडारों की खोज के लिए पहले ही आवश्यक कार्रवाई आरम्भ कर दी है जो ताप-विजली के उत्पादन के लिए जरूरी है। वर्तमान व्यवस्था के अनुसार, भूवैज्ञानिक मानचित्रण और प्रारम्भिक ड्रिलिंग के द्वारा खोज कार्य का पहला चरण भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण द्वारा पूरा किया जाता है। इस प्रकार जब कोयले के भंडार प्रमाणित हो जाते हैं तो विस्तृत ड्रिलिंग द्वारा व्यापक खोज कार्य कोयला कंपनियां करती हैं।

योजना अवधि 1978-83 में कोयले के उत्पादन के लिए अपेक्षित विस्तृत भूवैज्ञानिक खोज कार्य लगभग पूरा हो गया है। ऐसी योजना भी बनाई गई है कि 1992-93 में कोयले के उत्पादन के लिए अपेक्षित समन्वयी ड्रिलिंग कार्य उक्त वर्ष से सात वर्ष पहले पूरा कर लिया जाएगा।

[THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): Government has already taken necessary steps for exploring coal reserves in the country, especially for meeting the requirements of thermal power generation. According to the present set up, the first stage of exploration by geological mapping and initial drilling is conducted by Geological Survey of India. When coal is so established, detail exploration by extensive drilling is arranged by coal companies.

Detail geological exploration work, as required for coal production during the plan period 1978-83, has nearly been completed. It has also been planned that exploration drilling required for coal production in 1992-93, will be completed 7 years in advance of that year.]

[] English translation.