

News-item regarding coal shortage

325. SHRI T. ANJIAH :
 SHRI KALP NATH RAI :
 SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV :
 SHRIMATI SAROJ
 KHAPARDE :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of the 14th October, 1978 under the caption "coal shortage may put economy out of shape"; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY
 (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a)
 and (b) Yes, Sir.

A large number of underground and opencast mines in the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. were drowned in the recent floods. Emergent steps were taken for procurement of pumps, cables and pipes needed for dewatering the drowned mines and already about 35 of the drowned underground working districts and about 60 of the drowned quarries have been dewatered. The remaining drowned mines would also be recovered expeditiously.

Steps have been taken to augment production by intense working in the districts which have not been drowned, by opening new districts in areas not affected by floods and by expediting various schemes under implementation. For improving availability of coal to consumers despatches from stocks have been increased.

Deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi

326. SHRI PILOO MODY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deteriorating law and order situation in Delhi;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the fact that police officers are conniving with unlawful elements;

(c) whether complaints by leaders of all political parties, Councillors and social workers have been submitted regarding certain police officers in Delhi;

(d) whether the Station House Officer, Police Station Gandhinagar, Delhi has allegedly struck a terror in the area of his jurisdiction in connivance with known bad characters;

(e) whether the Police Commissioner is helpless to take action against him due to political interference; and

(f) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ameliorate the sufferings of the residents of Gandhinagar area of Delhi in particular and of Delhi as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
 THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
 (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) The law and order situation in Delhi is well under control and there is no cause for concern.

(b) and (c) As and when police officials come to adverse notice necessary action is taken against them in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

Effect on Indian shipping industry due to depression in freight rates

327. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI :
 SHRI S. W. DHABE :
 SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD
 NANDA :
 SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the continuing depressions in freight