

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

New Science policy proposed by National Committee on Science and Technology

•97. SHRI RISHI KUMAR MISHRA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the recently reconstituted National Committee on Science and Technology has recommended a new approach to Government's Science Policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the recommendations?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Committee has recommended a review of the existing Scientific Policy resolution and preparation of a technology Policy statement in the light of the Policy emphasis on rural development. The recommendation is under consideration.

Decrease in the production of Coal

*98. SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA;
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR
ADIVAREKAR: DR. RAJAT
KUMAR

CHAKRABARTI; SHRI
NRIPATI RANJAN

CHOUDHURY; SHRIMATI AMBIKA
SONI; Will the Minister of ENERGY be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of coal is declining due to non-availability of explosives and deteriorating industrial relations; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to augment coal production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The loss in coal production due to the strike in Gomia Explosives Factory was about one million tonnes. Loss in production due to labour trouble upto September during the current year was about three lakh tonnes.

(b) Steps have been taken to conserve the use of explosives to the maximum extent possible. Procurement of explosives from M/s. IDL Chemicals Ltd. has been increased and efforts are also being made to expedite the commissioning of additional capacity for the manufacture of explosives in the country. Every effort is made to expeditiously resolve issues leading to industrial unrest.

Reorganisation of Sainik Schools

*99. SHRI T. BASHEER; Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether Government propose to reorganise the Sainik Schools on a statutory basis and share the scholarship with the State Governments for the efficient running of these schools and revise pay scales of the teaching staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHER SINGH): No, Sir. There is no proposal before the Government for the reorganisation of the Sainik Schools on a statutory basis or for sharing the scholarship with the State Governments.

The question of revision of pay scales is, however, under consideration and the matter is proposed to be discussed in the forthcoming meeting of the Board of Governors. Since the expenses on these schools are met largely from scholarship granted by State Governments and other authorities, no substantial improvement in the pay scales is possible until the rate of scholarship is revised upwards, for which Government is in touch with scholarship sanctioning authorities.

Shortage of Explosives Hindering Coal Production

•100. SHRI HIMMAT SINGH: SHRI
HARSH DEO
MALAVIA: SHRI NRIPATI
RANJAN
CHOUDHURY;
DR. V. B. SINGH;

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;