

of subsidy on movement of coal by rail-cum-sea route upto 30-9-1979.

(b) This would enable the consumers to get coal moved by rail-cum-sea route at almost the same price as that moved by rail.

(c) A budget provision of Rs. 566 lakhs has been made by the Department of Coal for the year 1978-79.

#### **Shortage of medical X-ray films in the North-eastern region**

1933. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute shortage of medical X-ray films in Assam and other States in the North-eastern region, particularly in the Medical Colleges; if so, what steps Government have taken to meet the demand for such films;

(b) whether it is a fact that a private business house has been given the monopoly of distributing these films in that region;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to change the present distribution system for this region;

(d) whether Government are aware that X-ray films meant for the North-eastern region are sold by the distributor at Calcutta or are smuggled to Nepal and Bangladesh; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to establish a sale depot at Gauhati for proper distribution of X-ray films in the North-eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) There is no shortage of medical X-ray films in Assam or other States in the North-eastern region. As a matter

of fact, production of medical X-ray films at the Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Co. Ltd. (HPF) is more than sufficient to meet the requirements of the country. Besides, the company has got a regional office at Calcutta to take care of the demand of the North-eastern region of the country. A buffer stock of three months requirements is also maintained by HPF to guard against disruption of supplies.

(b) and (c) HPF has taken over direct distribution of medical X-ray films from 1st July, 1978 and there are no private distributors any more.

(d) Prior to taking over direct distribution by HPF, the erstwhile private distributors of the company processed supplies of medical X-ray films according to the orders received by them from various hospitals including, among others, those in Nepal. There has, however, been no diversion of any of the supplies as such to any third country.

(e) HPF has recently decided to open a depot at Gauhati for distribution of medical X-ray films in North-eastern region.

#### **Designing Of Devanagari Letters for Typing**

1934. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:  
SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for the designing of new designs for Devanagari letters for typing;

(b) whether Government are aware that a research fellow in the Jawaharlal Nehru University has already completed the design; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what

^Previously Unstarred Question 1524 transferred from the 9th August, 1978.