

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c) There has been some shortfall in the supply of medium and blendable coal to the steel plants in some months in the current year. It is not possible to relate or quantify separately as to what extent production of steel has been affected, as a result of such shortfalls. Measures that have been taken to remedy the situation include improvement in the production of raw medium coking coal, better performance of the washeries, commissioning of Gidi washery, commercial trial and utilisation of medium coking coal from new sources of supply and identification of new sources of supply for blendable coal. As a result, the position has improved considerably since November, 1974.

Production of salt in Orissa

997. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of salt production together with its quality in Orissa ; and

(b) whether Government propose to increase the production and improve the quality ; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA) : (a) and (b) Salt production in the State of Orissa is about 76,000 tonnes per annum, as against about 59 lakh tonnes per annum in the whole country. The quality of salt in the State varies from 95 to 98 per cent in sodium chloride content on dry basis. The low production of salt in the State is due to unfavourable climatic conditions with heavy rain-fall and consequent short manufacturing season. With a view to increasing the production of salt by developing salt industry, Government have prescribed a Code of Principles to govern assistance from cess proceeds for developmental and

labour welfare works. Government have also constituted a separate Regional Advisory Board for Salt for Orissa for making recommendations generally for measures conducive to the development of salt industry in the State. Besides, Salt Department renders necessary technical guidance on scientific lay-out of salt works, improvement in the quality of salt etc.

Sub-standard quality of coal

998. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the steps Government have taken in view of the complaints of sub-standard quality of coal being supplied by Coal Mines Authority/Bharat Coking Coal Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDHESHWAR PRASAD) : All possible efforts are made by the Coal Mines Authority Ltd. and the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. to ensure the supply of coal of the required quality to the consumers. These quality control measures include the following :

- (1) As far as possible the consumers are linked to the collieries producing the coal of the required specifications. These linkages are reviewed from time to time with a view to maintaining the quality of the coal supplied ;
- (2) Sale contracts with consumers provide that if the coal of the appropriate specifications is not supplied, the coal producing companies have to bear financial penalties ;
- (3) Continuous efforts are made to prevent extraneous matters being mixed with coal by picking of shales etc. ;
- (4) Crushing and screening of coal are also done if required to ensure the supply of coal of the proper size ;

- (5) Through the quality Control Department of the companies, regular inspections are held at the time of loading and whenever the consumers so desire, joint inspections are also arranged ;
- (6) Complaint Cells have been set up to deal with any specific complaints and prompt action is taken to rectify defects. Wherever necessary spot inspections are carried out at the loading/receiving ends; and
- (7) Regional and Branch Offices have been set up by the two companies for ensuring close liaison with the consumers.

Tool Design Centre in Calcutta

999. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :
DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI :
SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any request from the West Bengal Government for setting up a tool design centre in Calcutta ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Danish Government is willing to give more than Rs. 2 crores in foreign exchange for setting up the centre ; and

(c) if so, what decision Government have taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. P. SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The availability of rupee resources to set up the project is being explored before taking a decision in the matter.

Nuclear Fuel from for atomic explosion

1000. SHRI NIREN GHOSH :

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN :

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the USA has sought assurance from India that it will not use nuclear fuel obtained from that country for atomic explosion ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) The agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the USA signed in 1963 stipulates that the United States Government will supply enriched uranium required for the running of the Tarapur Atomic Power Station for its life time. This fuel is to be used only in the Tarapur Atomic Power Station and its movement outside the station, either for storage or for fabrication etc. has to be under the inspection of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Supply of arms and ammunitions to dacoits of Chambal Valley

1001. SHRI M. KADERSHAH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of supply of arms and ammunitions to dacoits in the Shambal Valley area ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the action Government propose to take to end this clandestine supply of arms ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) : (a) and (b) After the surrender of arms by dacoits in Madhya Pradesh beginning with April, 1972, clues were obtained about the source of supply of these arms. State Governments and other authorities concerned were requested to work on these clues and exercise the utmost vigilance in order to prevent recurrence of such supplies in future.