

direct supplies of coal to all bulk consumers without the intervention of middlemen. Even where it is not possible to exclude (the middlemen due to the wide dispersal and individually small requirements of certain classes of consumers, efforts are made to see that the middlemen observe the basic norms of business and do not over-charge the actual consumers. In Delhi, the distribution of soft coke to domestic consumers and hard coke and coal to small scale industries is effected through public sector agencies at fixed prices. In order to arrange the distribution of coal and coke to small scale industries, brick kilns and house-holds, on an assured basis, the State Governments have been requested to establish coal dumps at selected destinations and arrange the supply of coal from the dumps to the individual consumers through co-operatives or other agencies. It is hoped that with these steps, it would be possible to make coal and coke available to consumers in all parts of the country at reasonable prices. The State Governments have also got the powers to fix prices of coal under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and to take action against elements which act to push up the prices of coal beyond the levels notified by them wherever such control exists.

Non-Supply of Commercial Aluminium

414. SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ:
SHRI BINDESHWARI PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Independent (Secondary) Extruders of Aluminium are hard hit due to non-supply of requisite quantity of commercial grade aluminium;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the commercial grade aluminium is sold at a high premium in the open market by the primary producers;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to impose control over distribution of commercial grade aluminium, like E. C. Grade

Aluminium, to ensure fair and equitable supply of Commercial Grade Aluminium to Aluminium Extruders at the controlled rate; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) The production of aluminium in the current year has dropped significantly below estimated target owing to severe power cuts imposed by State Electricity Boards on the aluminium smelters. This has affected availability of both electrical and commercial grade aluminium to the various users.

(b) The producers' selling prices for aluminium and aluminium products excepting extrusions and foils are controlled by Government. Government are not aware that primary producers are selling commercial grade at a premium in the open market.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Appointment of a Custodian for Burn Group of Companies

415. SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:
SHRI K. B. CHETTRI: SHRI
SARDAR AMI AD ALI: DR. R. K.
CHAKRABARTI:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Custodian has formally been appointed for the Burn and Indian Standard Wagon Group of Companies at Calcutta; and

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(b) if so, the reasons for putting him under the control of retired military officer?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY * (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.