

(b) of these, the strength of local employees was as follows;

Class HI — 491.

Class IV — 1768.

SUPPLY OF HARD COKE TO FOUNDRIES IN GUJARAT

1423. SHRI I. K. KALANIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the yearly demand of hard coke for Pig Iron and Cast Iron foundries of Gujarat State;

(to) the supply of hard coke to these foundries during the years 1971-72 and 1972-73 year-wise.

(c) the tonnage of short supply of coke to these foundries during the year 1971-72;

(d) whether it is a fact that these foundries closed down or partly closed due to short supply of coke; and

(e) whether Government have taken any measures to remedy the short supply of coke?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA HANSDA): (a) The demand for hard coke for pig iron and cast iron foundries in Gujarat State sponsored by the Industries Commissioner, Gujarat Government, is stated to be 600 wagons per month for the year 1973. The Railways have allotted a quota of 500 wagons to that State.

(b) Hard coke is not a controlled commodity and allotment of wagons for industries is looked after by the Railways on the basis of the demand sponsored by the State Governments. The supply figures of hard coke for 1971-72 are not available with the State Government. During the year 1972-73 the units have not reported their receipts to the State Government.

(c) In view of the position explained in part (b) of the Question, the question of short supply cannot be established.

(d) Some foundries are reported to have shut down due to temporary shortage of coke.

(e) A continuous watch is being maintained in consultation with the Ministry of Railways about the supply and movement of coke to different States.

MINERAL SURVEY IN RAJASTHAN

1424. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that a preliminary survey by the Geological Survey of India has revealed that Rajasthan has mineral wealth worth about Rs. 8,030 crores;

(b) whether a comprehensive plan has been drawn out for beneficial exploration of this mineral wealth in that State, if so, the cost and the details thereof; and

(c) how far it is proposed to be implemented over the Fifth Five Year Plan period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to prepare a comprehensive plan for exploitation of all the minerals discovered so far, economic feasibility of the individual deposit has to be assessed which can be done only after investigating the deposits by detailed exploration. Since many of these deposits are in the different stages of exploration, and unless the final stage of exploration is reached, a comprehensive plan cannot be drawn for the entire mineral wealth of Rajasthan. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate cost involved in the comprehensive plan for beneficial exploration of all the minerals discovered so far in the State. However, whenever, the deposit is found to be economically viable, the same