

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). The Government continues to seek normalisation of relations with China as they feel it would be in the interest of both countries. There is some indication that the Chinese Government are also considering the matter.

♦99. (Transferred to the 1st March, 1973).

RATE OF PRODUCTION IN MAIN COKING

*100. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY: SHRI BANASRI DAS: DR. K. NAGAPPA ALVA: SHRI SURAJ PRASAD; SHRIMATISUMITRA G. KULKARNI: SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: SHRI KALYAN ROY: SHRIM. K. MOHIA:

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

(a) the monthly production in the main, coking coal mines since the take over of these mines, as compared to the production in the corresponding months in the previous two years;

(b) whether there is a shortfall in production and if so, the reasons therefore, and the steps being taken to remedy the situation; and

(c) what was the selling price of coking coal after nationalisation and immediately before nationalisation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Production figures are available only for one year before 'take over' of Coking Coal Mines. A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) While the production of coking coal is being maintained the despatches to washeries and steel plants have improved.

(c) The prices of various grades of coking coal prior to nationalisation are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. The price was

raised by Rs. 3.20 per tonne with effect from 1-5-1972.

STATEMENT

The monthly production of Coking Coal since the take over of these mines as compared to the production in the corresponding month of the previous year is given below:—

Figures of production (in thousand tonnes)

	During the month	During corresponding month of pre-vious year
October, 1971	737	820
November, 1971	855	888
December, 1971	931	946
January, 1972	866	927
February, 1972	845	894
March, 1972	902	887
April, 1972	850	928
May, 1972	862	918
June, 1972	798	888
July, 1972	801	850
August, 1972	823	847
September, 1972	860	782
	10130	10575

The prices of various grades of coking coal paid by the steel plants of Hindustan Steel Limited prior to 1-5-1972 were as under:

Grade	Price per tonne
	Rs.
A.	45.00
B	42.09
C	42.09
D	39.87
E	39.87
F	38.48
G	38.48
H.	38.48
HH (20 % to 22 % ash)	37.35
HH (22 % to 24 % ash)	36.23