

*210. [Withdrawn.]

PRODUCTION OF STEAM COAL

*211. SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present approximate average monthly requirement and production of steam coal in the country excluding shipment coal;

(b) what is the approximate grade-wise pithead stock of coal on 31st July 1953 as compiled by the Coal Commissioner under the heads steam coal, run-of-mines, and slack coal;

(c) what is the percentage of steam and slack coal in run-of-mines; and

(d) whether the present stock at pithead of run-of-mines consists mostly of accumulated slack coal from month to month for a long time or includes also rejections and weathered unmarketable coal?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) Excluding Assam for which the information is not available the figures are—

	Tons
Monthly requirements excluding exports—	1,638,706
Production	1,897,499

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See Appendix V, Annexure No. 52.)

(c) Approximately 60 and 40 per cent. respectively.

(d) The pit-head stocks do not include rejections and weathered unmarketable coal.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Do I understand the hon. Minister to say that the requirement of steam coal was only 16,00,000 tons monthly?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Excluding exports.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Excluding exports the domestic consumption was only 16,00,000 tons?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Yes.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: The annual consumption is supposed to be about 36 million tons, i.e., about 3 million tons a month, but here it is given only as 16 lakh tons.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I do not know what the hon. Member is thinking of. The question he has asked is about the requirement and production of steam coal. I have given the figures. Evidently the figure of 36 million tons that the hon. Member has given relates to all kinds of coal.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Including steam coal for domestic consumption etc.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: This is only about steam coal, of every kind, Selected A, Selected B, Grade I, Grade II, etc.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: How long will the pit-head stocks last taking into account our monthly requirements?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I cannot give a firm figure. It depends upon so many factors. I can only say that we have sufficient coal to last for a long period.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: It is less than about one month's requirements, even if it is 16 lakh tons of steam coal. It is only 12 lakh tons as it is shown in the statement given.

SHRI K. C. REDDY: I do not know what the hon. Member is referring to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Better have a conference. You do not seem to get at each other.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: The stock in the pit-heads is less than a month's requirements. May I know whether Government consider that to be sufficient stock at the pit-heads?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: Sir, the first part of the question refers to steam coal so far as I have been able to understand. So far as the pit-head stocks are concerned, I think the stocks are sufficient for our requirements, and if there is any shortage of

steam coal, I think arrangements can be made to produce enough steam coal for our requirements.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: The figures given in the statement refer to steam coal. Has the hon. Minister received any representation from the coal owners that the pegging arrangements for A and B grades are not justified in view of the low stock of coal at the pit-heads for the requirements of the country?

SHRI K. C. REDDY: That is just the question he has been aiming at, if I understand him aright. I think the pegging arrangements that have been made have been made after elaborate and careful examination of the entire position. If there is any grievance or complaint on the part of any owner, it will also be considered by the Coal Commissioner and the Coal Board and necessary redress given, if there is any basis for the complaint.

ARMY REINFORCEMENTS POSTED IN MAHE BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

*212. **SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French Government have sent any Army re-inforcements to Mahe after the ban on traffic of goods between Mahe and Indian territory was imposed by the Indian Customs authorities; and

(b) if so, whether Government have made any protest against this action of the French authorities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) and (b). No. It was reported that about 30 sepoy were sent to Mahe from Pondicherry for normal police work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Krishna Menon had better watch carefully what Mr. Imbichibava says in Malayalam. Mrs. Lakshmi Menon is not here to give us a translation.

SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA: (*English translation of the question put in Malayalam*): Is it a fact that on the 14th August the over-bridge at R. C. No. 14 was occupied by the French Police and, if so, have Government taken any steps to arrest them; if no steps have been taken, why not?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: It is quite a different matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Manjuran was arrested. Why not arrest the other fellows?

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is it not a fact that our territory has been trespassed upon by the French Police?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: The question referred to the movement of troops.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Exactly. The French Police came and occupied our territory.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: They are still there.

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: No, Sir.

SHRI M. MANJURAN: There are paper reports to that effect.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: This has been published in the Malayalam papers with photographs of the troops. If the hon. Minister wants, I will place a copy on the Table of the House.

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: There is a Short Notice Question in the other House to which I am replying after this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why don't you reply here?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: In the course of repair works, the French Police had trespassed to our side. On information we asked the Malabar Special Constabulary to take up position, and the French Police immediately withdrew.