

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI S. N. BURAGOHAIR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The sale price of petrol is the same irrespective of the company that produces or sells it. But if the hon. Member has in mind the retail price of petrol in Assam, it is true that it is higher than in most parts of the country, except in a few outlying places and in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The basic factor of the prices is the f.o.b. Gulf of Mexico price to which are added, among others, ocean and inland transport charges.

(c) The Government are looking into the question of the prices of petroleum products of the company.

(d) Yes, Sir. During the last few years the company has been making profits of 100 per cent. and even more.

FAIL IN THE EXPORT OF COAL

*67. SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of coal from India has considerably gone down;

(b) if so, what are the reasons; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for the full utilization of the coal resources?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) The high level of exports reached during 1951 and 1952 has not been maintained during the current year. There has been instead a noticeable falling off since the beginning of this year. A statement showing monthly coal exports during 1951 to 1953 and another statement showing coal exports to different destinations during the years 1946 to 1953 are placed on the Table. [See Appendix V, Annexures Nos. 6 and 7.]

(b) The increase in coal exports in 1951 and 1952 was caused by several

factors. There was coal shortage in Europe and in the U.K., internal transport difficulties in South Africa, restricted production in Australia and the difficult shipping position due to the Korean War. These factors have now disappeared. Australia has stepped up her production and is in a position to export coal. Similar is the case with South Africa. Hence, the decline in our coal exports during the current year. Our normal markets have not been seriously affected; only the special markets which we secured under the exceptional conditions described above are disappearing.

(c) The Government are examining the steps necessary for stepping up coal exports. They are also constantly endeavouring to improve the internal transport facilities for coal, thereby enabling the fuller utilization of current production of coal.

POWER USED BY THE SINDRI FERTILIZER FACTORY

33. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) the daily consumption of electric power by the Sindri Fertilizer Factory;

(b) who charges the factory for the use of power, and what is the average monthly bill which the factory is paying for such use;

(c) whether the factory owns any power station (thermal or otherwise); and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, (i) what is the installed capacity of that power station and (ii) whether this power station is used as a reserve or daily?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) The daily consumption of electric power by the Sindri Fertilizer Factory varies from 20,000 k.w. to 30,000 k.w.

(b) and (c). No one charges the factory for use of the power, as the factory owns its own thermal power station.