

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NUNUDI JITPUR COLLIERY

110. SHRI R. P. N. SINHA : Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a quota fixed for the sale of soft coke for every colliery in India.

(b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether the Nunudi Jitpur Colliery were issued more wagons for one quarter against their quota of 30 wagons per quarter, if so, why ?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : (a) Quotas are fixed, on a half-yearly basis, for the Bengal/Bihar fields only.

(b) An *ad hoc* sanction, and not a quarterly sanction, for 150 wagons was issued on the Nunudi Jitpur Colliery.

This Colliery produces selected grade coal, and supplies coal to steel works. In preparing the coal for steel works a very high standard of loadings is essential to ensure that the ash content does not exceed the specified limit, and this process results in excessive throw-over of rejections. At the time this *ad hoc* sanction was issued, the total stock of rejections was about 25,000 tons with ash content less than 35% and to reduce this large accumulation, an *ad hoc* sanction for 150 wagons was given, out of which only 90 wagons were moved. This sanction did not interfere with the quotas fixed for other collieries, as the supply was made outside the provincial quota.

DISTRIBUTION OF COAL

111. SHRI R. P. N. SINHA : Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal Commissioner in rationalising distribution of coal acts on a list of priority of consumers of coal ; if so,

whether coal for brick burning and household consumption is given the lowest priority in allocation of wagons ;

(b) if the answer to the above be in the affirmative whether Government propose to revise the priority list of coal consumers and allocate wagons for supply of coal for brick burning and household consumption with a higher priority ; and

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the export of coal to make large quantities of it available for internal consumption ?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : (a) Yes, a copy of the list is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, Annexure No. 54.] Coal for brick burning comes under Class 'K' and coke for domestic consumption, under Class 'I'.

(b) The Government are unable to accept the suggestion for up-grading the priority for brick burning coal, as the quota for this class of consumers is large, and so long as the present wagon shortage persists any such upgrading of brick burning coal will result in a number of other producing industries, enjoying higher priority, going short of coal. The question of giving a higher priority for soft coke is under consideration.

(c) The Government's policy is to regulate coal exports keeping in view internal requirements. There is at present no shortage of coal, to meet both internal needs and export commitments, but difficulties have arisen due to wagon shortage. The transport position is expected to improve in the near future, and it will not be in the national interest to curtail coal exports, to such an extent as to force the countries at present taking Indian coal to look for other avenues of supply.

OPERATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

112. SHRI M. MANJURAN : Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state :