

(c) MITCO mainly purchases its requirement of mica for export from processors/dealers registered with it who are licenced to deal in mica by the State Governments.

CIL Supplied Coal to Public Sector Undertakings at Prices Lower than Costs

7095. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. has earned a profit in 1984-85 as reported in the 'Economic Times' of April 25, 1985 ;

(b) whether the profit has been entirely due to economy measures ;

(c) whether CIL supplies coal to several public sector undertakings like Steel Authority of India Ltd. at prices lower than the cost ; and

(d) if so, whether coal prices for these undertaking are proposed to be raised ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). The accounts of Coal India Ltd., and its subsidiaries for year the 1984-85 have not yet been finalised. However, Coal India Ltd. is expected to earn profit which is mainly due to the increase in coal production and improvement in productivity. Economy measures also contributed for this profit.

(c) and (d). Coal India Ltd. supplies coal to Public Sector Undertakings at prices notified by the Government and as such the question of supplying coal by CIL to public sector undertakings at prices lower than the cost or over the cost, does not arise.

Compensation to Unskilled Class of Society Against Rising Prices

7096. SHRI JITENDRA PRASHAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government have been compensating salaried class of the society against prices by sanctioning dearness allowances from time to time ;

(b) whether Government have so far thought of compensating the unskilled class consisting of farmers and particularly part of the population living below the poverty line, which suffers more from the rising prices ;

(c) if so, the ways and means contemplated by Government to compensate the unskilled class also against the price rise in future ;

(d) if not, the reasons for discriminating the majority class against the minority one ? and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a), (b) (c) and (d). There are schemes for payment of dearness allowance for Government servants as well as public sector and private sector employees ; the cost however, is borne by the employer and not by the Government (except of course, in the case of Government employees). The workers in the unorganised sector are protected through Minimum Wages Act and minimum wages are periodically revised. Among the non-salaried classes, the farmers are paid remunerative prices for their products. Government makes revisions in minimum support/procurement prices of agricultural products from time to time on the basis of the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and prices.

Government has also launched a number of specially designed schemes for enlargement of employment opportunities and alleviation of poverty. These include National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) and scheme for providing self-employment to the educated unemployed. In addition, essential commodities such as foodgrains, sugar,