

[Translation]

Supply of soft Coke to States

*107. SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for providing soft coke to various States; and

(b) the quantity provided to each State during the last three years?

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE

MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Allocations of soft coke are being made by Ministry of Coal on half yearly basis in favour of consuming States/Union Territories *inter alia* taking into account their requirements and past allocations.

(b) Details of soft coke despatches to each State/Union Territory during the last three years are given as under:-

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

State/UT	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92 (Upto jan. 92)
1. Bihar	423.1	436.4	343.56
2. West Bengal	379.3	244.4	185.54
3. Uttar Pradesh	33.10	26.0	9.18
4. Orissa	0.10	-	-
5. Madhya Pradesh	1.2	3.8	1.65
6. Maharashtra	-	-	-
7. Gujarat	1.9	1.7	4.36
8. Rajasthan	1.00	0.4	-
9. Delhi	50.1	40.8	21.49
10. Punjab	0.1	-	0.01
11. Haryana	0.1	0.2	0.20
12. Tamil Nadu	-	-	-
13. Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-
14. Karnataka	0.4	0.8	0.38
15. Kerala	-	-	-
16. Jammu & Kashmir	-	0.3	-

(Figures in '000 tonnes)

<i>State/UT</i>	<i>1989-90</i>	<i>1990-91</i>	<i>1991-92 (Upto jan. 92)</i>
17. Himachal Pradesh	-	0.2	0.06
18. Chandigarh	-	-	-
19. Assam	7.7	9.5	2.95
20. Sikkim	9.1	9.2	1.85
21. Nagaland	5.2	5.7	2.15
22. Arunachal Pradesh	0.4	0.5	0.34
23. Mizoram	0.7	3.3	0.17
24. Tripura	-	-	-
25. Manipur	-	-	0.15
26. Meghalaya	-	-	0.10

[Translation]

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the part (b) of my question it has been stated that except Gujarat coal has been supplied in lesser quantity as compared to the previous years to almost every State in 1991-92. What are its reasons?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Sir, the production of soft coke has been coming down year by year, and I must confess before this august House that partly it has been intentional because the cost of production of soft coke is very high.

Sir, today the cost of production of soft coke per tonne is Rs. 555, and the State Government has fixed the selling price of soft coke only at Rs. 175 per tonne. Therefore, it has become very unviable. And I must also say that Coal India has been

facing lot of problems and our accumulated loss is Rs. 2500 crores and one of the areas where the contribution of the losses has been coming from is this sector and therefore, in order to make Coal India viable we have not been producing much of soft coke as a result of which I must admit that the supply of soft coke to the State Governments had come down considerably over the years.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come to the second supplementary. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether soft coal is produced according to the demand and needs of the States. If not, the percentage of less production than the demand and the measures being taken to remove this shortage.

[English]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, the production of cooking coal in 1990-91 was 6.52 and

It is certainly less than the previous year. As I have said, the production is coming down and as a result of this, we are not able to meet the requirements of the State Governments. But, we have a plan to make coal as a domestic fuel in this country. We have taken up two major steps for that. One is to have a special smokeless fuel unit and the other is setting up of bricketting Unit. The setting up of bricketting units will be much more easier. There are two problems of coal becoming a domestic fuel. It creates a lot of smoke. Therefore, we have developed a technology for that and that problem has been overcome. The second problem is that the coal takes a long time to burn. It takes five to 10 minutes to burn. We have to put some firewood and then out the coal and then it burns. In some countries like France and Korea, they have developed a technology where coal can be burnt instantly. It can be ignited instantly with a match box. We have sent samples of our coal to France and just about a week ago, it had come back with all the results. France is agreeable to give us that technology also. After having got that technology, I think, we can go in a big way to popularize coal as a domestic fuel, but I must say that it is going to take some time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether coal is supplied to the States according to their demand. Do you supply coal in accordance with the advance deposited under cash and carry system?

MR. SPEAKER: Its reply has already been given. He has already stated that they are not able to supply the coal as per requirement.

[*English*]

SHRI SHOBANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the reply given by the hon. Minister there is no indication at all regarding the allotment of coke to the State of Andhra Pradesh. The Sponge Iron (India) Limited, a public sector under-

taking is being closed in Palvancha for want of supply of coal. So, in view of the fact, will the hon. Minister take note of the requirement of that particular public sector unit and take adequate steps to supply to the unit that the unit do not become sick?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, soft coke is normally used only in those states where the coal is produced. There is a crude way of processing the coal and it is mainly confined to two major states of India, they are West Bengal and Bihar.

SHRI SHOBANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: In Andhra Pradesh also, Singareni collieries is there.

SHRI P.A. SANGAMA: This question has been addressed to Coal India. That is why I have no information, but I will collect the information and give it to you. As far as the second part of the question is concerned, I will look into that.

New Drug Policy

*108. **SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:**
SHRI DATTARAYA BANDARU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to revise the national drug policy;

(b) if so, the changes likely to be effected; and

(c) the time by which the new policy is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTAMOHAI): (a) to (c). The review of the Drug Policy, 1986 and Drugs (Price Control) order, 1987 is under the active consideration of the Government.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Sir, the policy is under review, but there are