

(d) what was the planning and the pre-cautionary steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) The investment (loan plus equity) by the Central Government as on 30.6.1987 in Coal India Limited was Rs. 6513.17 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The increase in wage bill mainly resulting from liberalised payment of gratuity and ex-gratia payment in lieu of bonus, increase in consumer price index from average of 572 points in 1984-85 to 603 points in 1985-86 resulting in increase in payment of VDA, other cost escalations, delay in the revision of coal prices and higher proportion of inferior grades of coal in the total production account for steep increase in the losses of Coal India during 1985-86.

(d) The targets of production for Coal India and prices of coal are externally fixed. Coal India also has no control on most of the factors increasing cost of production like increase in the general level of prices in the country. However, Coal India is taking steps to improve its financial performance by better utilisation of manpower/machinery and introduction of better management practices and technology.

Saving of Foodgrains from Menace of Rats

1498. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether rats are damaging about 10 to 15 per cent of the foodgrains produced in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to save foodgrains from the menace of rats?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT):

(a) No systematic/comprehensive studies

have been carried out to estimate the damage to foodgrains caused by rats.

(b) To minimise the damage caused by rats to stored foodgrains, the Indian Grain Storage Institute of the Ministry has been testing different rodenticides and bait preferences for their efficacy. The Institute has also developed certain rodenticide mixtures. Besides, 17 Central Save Grain teams of the Ministry organise demonstrations and training in selected villages in different States so as to propagate rat control measures like trapping, destruction of rat harbourages and use of rodenticides and fumigants. The Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation also use rat control measures, whenever necessary.

Disposal of cases by Lok Adalats in Rajasthan

1499. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Lok Adalats held in Rajasthan from 1 January, 1986 to 30 June, 1987;

(b) the number of cases still pending before these Adalats for disposal; and

(d) the time by which these Lok Adalats will be in a position to dispose of the cases the same day on the pattern of "Panchayats"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): According to the information available with Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes:—

(a) 161 Lok Adalats were held in Rajasthan between 1.1.86 and 30.6.87.

(b) 2, 07, 398 cases were disposed of.

(c) and (d). Lok Adalats are not regularly constituted courts. Normally, the cases