

including China, the U.S.A., France and some West Asian countries. The impact of such supplies on our security and defence preparedness is always under review.

(b) The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

Steps to popularise NCC

Availability of Coal in Delhi

263. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

261. SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH : SHRI CHANDRA BHAL MANI TIWARI :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that sufficient care to popularise the NCC has not been taken for the last three years; and

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(b) whether NCC Senior Division Wing can be treated as Army Recruiting Unit in the final year degree course colleges or post-graduate courses among the interested youth ?

(a) whether Government have announced any increase in the excise duties on coal during the last four months in Delhi resulting in increase in price of coal and if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to make coal available in the Capital ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) and (b) Efforts have always been made to popularise the NCC. The whole scheme has recently been reviewed by a high-level Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. G. S. Mahajani ; the Committee has just submitted a Report. It is not possible to treat the NCC as a recruiting unit but trained NCC Cadets do have an advantage while competing for entry into the Armed Forces. Further, the Army, Navy and Air Force reserve certain number of seats for NCC Cadets who have passed 'C' Certificate examination.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) A co-ordinated effort is being made by the coal producing units to increase coal production and by the railways to move as much coal as possible to various industries in the country including Delhi.

Expert committee to evolve a scheme for Gratuity Fund

Defence item manufacturing units

262. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

264. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a six-man Expert Committee has been constituted to evolve a scheme for the creation of a gratuity fund for employees working in different sectors of economy; and

(a) how many ordnance factories or defence item manufacturing units are functioning at the moment in India.

(b) if so, the main points of the report in case it is submitted and the decision taken on it ?

(b) whether any public undertaking, other than ordnance factories is producing major defence items; and

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) The Committee consists of 6 members excluding the Chairman and Secretary.

(c) if so, whether those units can be treated absolutely as ordnance units or defence production units under this Ministry?