

matter and liberalised their service conditions to the extent considered justified as indicated below:

(i) The scale of pay of Rs. 335-20-475-25-575-EB-25-650 has been allotted, which is higher than the equivalent of the Prescribed Scale, Rs. 340-575 which was recommended by the Second Pay Commission.

(ii) Restricted non-practising allowance has been granted at the rate of 20 per cent of the pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 125 per mensem.

(iii) Honorary Gazetted rank has been granted to all Assistant Surgeons on completion of 5 years service.

(iv) Scope of promotion has been improved by creating 300 more posts in the regular gazetted cadre of Assistant Medical Officers (Grade Ra. 375-25-500-30-590-EB-30-800-EB-30-830-35-900).

Industrial Licences Procedure

Shri P. C. Boroqah:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
 Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
 Shri Bado:
 Shri Hukam Chand
 *298. { Kachhavalya:
 Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
 Shri D. N. Tiwary:
 Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri P. K. Deo:
 Shri Kapur Singh:
 Shri P. K. Ghosh:

Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Secretaries of the economic ministries of the Government of India was recently convened to consider measures for streamlining the registration and industrial licensing procedures;

(b) if so, the decisions taken at the meeting; and

(c) the steps taken to implement them?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question of further speeding up procedures for the registration and licensing of industrial units is under the consideration of the Government.

Strike Threat by Colliery Workers

*299. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the decision taken by about 45,000 colliery workers of the National Coal Development Corporation in Hazaribagh district of Bihar to go on a one-day token strike in the first week of March, 1965 against the policy of reducing and restricting coal production in the public sector and its refusal to pay minimum bonus to workers in accordance with the Bonus Commission's recommendations; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to look into their grievances and to avert the strike?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Coal Workers Union at Giridih has served a notice on the National Coal Development Corporation proposing to call a strike by the workers of the collieries of the National Coal Development Corporation in the District of Hazaribagh if certain demands were not met by the 28th February, 1965. Some of the issues raised by the Coal Workers Union at Giridih are under consideration by the National Coal Development Corporation and the Government. A procedure has been prescribed for workers seeking redress of genuine grievances. While the National Coal Development Corporation and the Government are prepared to consider legitimate grievances of workers made in the prescribed manner, they are not

prepared to concede demands made under threat of strike.

Textile Industry

- *300. { Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Maharajkumar Vijaya
Ananda:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn towards the resolution passed by the Indian National Textile Workers' Federation on the 30th December, 1964, requesting Government to take over the management of "mis-managed" units in the textile industry in the country as well as the concerns which were closed down as being "uneconomic"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The problem of the closed mills today is only marginal as about 9 mills, the smallest number in last decade and more, are closed. Of this also 3 or 4 units are likely to start in this year.

Government are, however, keeping a close watch over the textile mills in the country, including the "mis-managed" and "uneconomic" units, and taking action under Section 18A of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, whenever necessary.

South-Central Railway Zone

- *301. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri M. R. Krishna:
Shri Sivamurthi Swamy:
Shri Ramakrishna Reddy:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri P. Venkatasubbalah:
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri A. P. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the progress made so far in the formation of the proposed 'South-Central Railway Zone' with headquarters at Secunderabad?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): Action is in hand to implement the decision that was announced in Parliament on 23rd December 1964 to form a new Zone called the South Central Railway Zone with headquarters at Secunderabad.

For the Zone to function properly, a number of buildings have to be constructed, both for office as well as for residential accommodation. Accordingly arrangements have been made for acquiring the necessary land for housing the buildings. This scheme for land and buildings costing Rs. 3-20 crores has been included in the Budget demands which are now before the House. The actual construction of the buildings will commence after the funds are voted by Parliament, meanwhile preparation of plans, tender schedules and all other preliminary arrangements are in hand.

The very object of formation of this new Zone being to increase efficiency, it is necessary to ensure that the least possible dislocation is caused in the process of establishing the zone. Hence it is essential to have a certain minimum of office accommodation and housing before the zonal headquarters is established and set functioning. Together with the planning for the accommodation, staff planning is also being done and both Central and Southern Railways are examining how much staff at headquarters they can release consequent on the reduction in their work-load on the formation of the new Zone, so that such staff may be employed at the Headquarters' Organisation at Secunderabad.

It is expected that the considerable preliminary work and arrangements to be done as explained above before the Zone can actually function will take roughly about a year.