

(b) the reasons for not holding the regular meeting?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). The last meeting of Central Zonal Council was held on 28th August, 1960. It was proposed to hold a meeting of the Council in November, 1961, but due to the preoccupation of the Members of the Council with general elections and other pressing State matters, the meeting had to be postponed.

New Universities in Third Plan

***316. Shri Birendra Bahadur Singh:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has appointed a committee to advise on the proposals of various State Governments to establish new universities during the Third Plan period;

(b) if so, who are the members of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has so far held any meeting; and

(d) if so, the details of its deliberations?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (1) Dr. D S Kothari, Chairman, University Grants Commission.

(2) Dr. A. L. Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor, Madras University.

(3) Dr. A. C. Joshi, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University.

(4) Shri Prem Kirpal, Education Secretary, Government of India.

(5) Shri S. Bhoothalingam, Finance Secretary, Government of India.

(6) Prof. M. V. Mathur, Department of Economics and Public Administration, University of Rajasthan.

(7) Secretary, University Grants Commission.

(c) Yes, three meetings.

(d) The Committee has not yet made final decisions. It is not considered advisable to disclose their discussions at this stage.

Polish Collaboration in Coal Industry

***320.** { Shri A. V. Raghavan:
Shri Oza:

Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether a deep shaft mine, the first of its kind in India is being sunk at present in Sudamdih with technical and financial collaboration of the Polish Government.

(b) when this project is expected to be completed;

(c) whether any exploratory talks were held with Poland for widening Polish-Indian collaboration in mining in view of the persistent coal shortage in the country; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes; the Sudamdih deep mine is being developed with Polish collaboration, which will bring in new techniques of sinking shafts.

(b) On present indications, this mine is expected to go into initial production in 1964-65.

(c) Since the industrial demand for coal is fast increasing, and Polish techniques are highly advanced, the possibility of further widening the scope of Indo-Polish collaboration in the matter of developing deep shaft mines is being explored.

(d) Does not arise at this stage.

Jammu Srinagar Road

***321.** { Shri Sham Lal Saraf:
Bakshi Abdul Rashid:
Shri Abdul Ghani Goni:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the progress that has been made in stabilising the Jammu-Srinagar Road from Udhampur to Banihal, since its transfer to the Army Engineering Department; and

(b) to what extent land erosion and land slides have been controlled in order to ensure smooth traffic on this road, more particularly during the Tourist traffic season?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramalah):

(a) The overall responsibility for the improvement and maintenance of the road from Pathankot to Srinagar was taken over by the Border Roads Development Board with effect from 1-4-61. Since then, various works for improvement of the road from Udhampur to Banihal have been sanctioned at a total cost of about Rs. 45 lakhs. These works are in progress under the supervision of Commander Engineer, Banihal.

(b) The results of works which have been executed or are in progress will be judged during ensuing Tourist season. The Commander Engineer, Banihal has been given necessary machinery, equipment and manpower to ensure that the dislocation of traffic on this road is minimised, if not eliminated altogether.

Expenditure on Oil and Natural Gas Commission

***322. Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual expenditure on Oil & Natural Gas Commission; and

(b) the result of oil prospecting in Rajasthan?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) The total expenditure of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission during the year 1961-62 was Rs. 14.34 crores (approx.)

(b) Prospecting for oil in Rajasthan has commenced recently and

results will be known only after completion of prospecting work.

Coal

Shri A. S. Saigal:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri B. K. Das:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Shri Morarka:
***323.** Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:
Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:
Shri P. C. Boroah:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Daji:
Shri Bishan Chander Seth:
Shri Mohammad Elias:

Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that supply of coal quota has been cut for various industries and its price is going to be increased;

(b) if so, details of increase in price;

(c) whether it is due to the insufficient supply of coal by mine owners; and

(d) what action Government is taking to increase the production of coal so that it may not affect the working of various projects in the Third Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). The revision of quotas has been effected in order to match them closely with the rail transport capacity available. Since the revised quotas are generally higher than what was actually supplied during 1961, the expectation is that consumers will get at least the same quantities of coal, if not more, as last year.

(c) Yes, there has been some insufficient supply of coal also by mine-owners in some regions. The coal industry has been urging for