

(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. Borooah:
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