

have said, we are taking action and four water tanks of 15000 gallons capacity and two water tanks of 10000 gallons capacity are going to be constructed in 17 Eastern Canal Road. I have taken up with the CPWD the general question of expediting the construction programme of the Survey of India.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Raw Materials for Rourkela

*975. **Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production is hampered in Rourkela Steel Plant for want of raw materials; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove this handicap?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). Production has not suffered on account of raw materials except that lately there has been some paucity of coking coal and the coke oven batteries were not working to their optimum capacity. Every effort is being made to build up sufficient stocks of coal and ensure continuous flow of iron ore.

I.A.F. Liberator Plane

*977. **Shri P. K. Deo:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether an I.A.F. Liberator plane located 100 fishermen in 23 canoes helplessly drifting in the sea off Rameshwaram island in the third week of May last;

(b) what steps were taken to rescue them; and

(c) how many were rescued?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The aircraft sent the position of the drifting canoes, on wireless, to the

Directorate of Fisheries, Madras, who made rescue arrangements.

(c) All, numbering about 106.

Lapse of Life Insurance Policies

*978. **Shri Anrudh Sinha:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Life Insurance policies booked by the L.I.C. since 1956 have lapsed;

(b) if so, the percentage of policies lapsed;

(c) the causes thereof; and

(d) the steps, if any, taken to improve the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Churcha and Kotma Mines

*979. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri Nek Ram Negi:

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

(a) whether the project reports regarding the Churcha and Kotma Coal Mines have been considered by the National Coal Development Corporation;

(b) whether these have been accepted by Government; and

(c) what is the total estimated cost of expenditure on these projects?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The project report for Churcha awaits the completion of detailed prospecting in the area.

The National Coal Development Corporation have decided not to go forward with the Kotma project as the coal would be of inferior quality (Grade II) and the demand for it may not be sufficient. The matter will be