

(a) whether the report submitted by the Enquiry Committee appointed to investigate the causes of fire in the Kurasia mines has been examined by Government;

(b) if so, the nature of decision arrived at by Government;

(c) whether there is any prospect of working the mines in the near future; and

(d) what is the amount of loss sustained so far by the National Coal Development Corporation?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). The finding of the Committee is that the cause of the fire was spontaneous heating, and that steps taken to deal with the fire, after it was discovered, were in the right direction. Government have agreed with these findings.

(c) Yes; recovery operations are under way, and it is expected that, if these operations are not interrupted for unavoidable reasons, the mine will restart working in June, 1962.

(d) There has been no major loss of machinery or other equipment. It is also not likely that the coal standing on the pillars has been damaged to any great extent. However, a correct assessment of the position about loss can be made only after the mine is fully recovered.

Coal Dump in Kanpur and Ahmedabad

***288. Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether a coal dump has been set up for the textile industry in Kanpur;

(b) if so, what is the extent of the reserve kept in the dump and when it was created; and

(c) whether a similar dump has also been created for the textile mills in Ahmedabad?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). No coal dump has been set up for the textile industry at Kanpur. But at a recent meeting held on February 12, 1962, between the Coal Controller and the major consumers of coal in Kanpur, including representatives of the textile industry, it was decided that a Consumers' Co-operative pool for the purpose of procurement of coal and its distribution should be set up at Kanpur, and that the individual units participating in the pool should draw their supplies from it.

(c) There is no dump for textile mills at Ahmedabad either. But a similar pool system is working there also.

Revision of Compounded Levy Scheme for Vegetable Oil Industry

***291. Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vegetable oil industry has made representations for the revision of the compounded levy for the development of the industry; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question is under consideration.

Proscription of a book "Chin ki Jhalak"

***292. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar have proscribed a Hindi book, entitled "Chin ki Jhalak" published by the Foreign Language Publications, Peking;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the book contains two maps on its inner cover, which shows the whole of NEFA and parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, U.P. and Bhutan as belonging to China;