

(b) if so, what is the decision of the Government in respect of that representation?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) Yes. The Federation submitted a Charter of demands including a demand for revision of the existing Wage Structure and requested Government to refer the matters in dispute to a Conciliation Board or an Industrial Tribunal for settlement.

(b) All interests concerned are being consulted and Government hope to come to a decision soon.

#### COAL MINE WORKERS

**\*636. Shri Ramananda Das:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the steps contemplated by Government for meeting the situation arising out of the statutory reduction in the output of the metallurgical coal, resulting in the unemployment of a large number of coal mine workers; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps for the employment of the retrenched coal mine workers?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) and (b). The steps to be adopted for the conservation of metallurgical coal are under examination by the Coal Board. Unemployment of a large number of coal mine workers need not be a necessary concomitant of any steps that may be taken in this behalf. If such a contingency were to be likely the Coal Board would doubtless make appropriate recommendations to meet such a situation, and Government will at that stage consider what action, if any, is necessary on their part.

#### MINIMUM WAGES ACT

**\*637. Shri Ramananda Das:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) when the Minimum Wages Act was passed;

(b) when it was to be implemented;

(c) in how many States it has been implemented and in how many industries upto April, 1952;

(d) whether Government propose to lay on the Table a statement containing detailed information regarding its implementation State-wise and industry-wise; and

(e) what is the last date for the implementation of the provisions of the Act?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) 9th February 1948.

(b) and (c). The 31st March, 1952 was the last date by which minimum rates of wages were to be fixed in respect of the employments mentioned in Part I of the Schedule to the Act, while such rates are to be fixed in respect of the employments mentioned in Part II of the Schedule before the 31st December 1953.

(c) and (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 51.]

#### MINING INDUSTRY

**\*638. Shri Kandasamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) when the committee appointed to enquire into the conditions of mining industry submitted its report to Government;

(b) whether Government have reached any decision regarding its recommendations;

(c) whether the Committee recommended any special scheme for the rationalisation of the working of our mines and also for their ownership; and

(d) if so, what are its recommendations and Government's decision thereon?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) No such Committee has been appointed by the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

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

#### RESEARCH ON EFFECTS OF IRRIGATION

**\*639. Shri Kandasamy:** Will the Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of the investigations which are expected to be carried on at the Poona Station for Central Water and Power Research; and

(b) whether such investigations include the effects of irrigation on erosion, silting, growth of salinity, improvement in fertility of soil, productivity, vegetation, local humidity, drainage facilities and malaria?

**The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda):** (a) The Central Water and Power Research Station, Poona, deals with the problems relating to:

(i) River and Canal Hydraulics.