

the Director General, India Stores
Department, London.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN MICA MINES

*1627. { Shri S. N. Das:
Shri Ramachandra Reddi:

Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers engaged in Mica Industry that have been thrown out of employment in the different parts of the country due to slump in trade; and

(b) the steps taken so far to give alternative employment to these labourers?

The Minister of Labour (Shri K. K. Desai): (a) About 11,500.

(b) A Sub-Committee which was set up by the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Advisory Committee, Andhra, to examine this question came to the conclusion that there have been no complaints of large scale unemployment and alternative sources of employment as in agriculture were available to the workers. In Bihar, the State Government have constituted an Unemployment Committee to go into the matter and the Committee has submitted its interim recommendations which are under the consideration of the State Government.

In all the States, the workers employed in mica industry generally come from the neighbouring villages and are employed in the work of agriculture and other subsidiary works.

SOIL CONSERVATION SCHEMES

*1628. { Shri Gidwani:
Shri Ganpati Ram:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved the Soil Conservation Scheme of the Uttar

Pradesh Government for the afforestation of its border on the Rajasthan side;

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure to be incurred on this scheme;

(c) whether the scheme will be financed by the Centre; and

(d) if so, the terms on which the amount will be advanced to the State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) The total expenditure on the Scheme is estimated at Rs. 35.2 lakhs.

(c) The Central Soil Conservation Board has already approved a loan of Rs. 12,30,000. The question of the grant of a subsidy is under consideration.

(d) The loan will be advanced by the Government of India on the following terms:—

(i) The loan would be repayable in 15 annual equated instalments, falling due on the first anniversary of the drawal of loan.

(ii) The loan would be sanctioned by Government of India from time to time on the basis of the actual execution of the scheme.

(iii) The Government of India, as a very special case would give a subsidy equal to the interest chargeable during the first five years of the drawal of loan. This subsidy would be withdrawn after the first five years.

PASSENGER AMENITIES

*1629. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of reforms being introduced in the Railways regard-

ing equality of treatment to different classes of passengers; and

(b) the facilities offered to third class passengers regarding reservation of sleeping berths, using of same entrance and exit in Station Platforms as upper class passengers etc.?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The reforms recently introduced are:—

- (i) Abolition of the system of earmarking exits and entrances at stations for different classes of passengers;
- (ii) Throwing open of dining cars to all classes of passengers; and
- (iii) Making the retiring rooms at stations available for all classes of passengers on payment of the prescribed scale of charges.

(b) Sleeping accommodation for third class passengers during night, between specified stations, on payment of a surcharge of Rs. 3/- per night has been provided on eight trains.

The other facilities offered are as stated in reply to part (a) of the question.

LOCUST SWARMS IN ORISSA

*1631. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a swarm of locusts has recently invaded the districts of Bolangir and Sambalpur (Orissa);

(b) if so, whether the Government of Orissa have sought any assistance from the Centre to fight the menace of locusts; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) No

(c) Does not arise.

AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

*1632. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Development Programme for the Aeronautical Engineering Department has been completed;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) the details of the work done?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). It is not clear what the hon. Member is referring to by 'Aeronautical Engineering Department'. The Aeronautical Engineering problems connected with civil aviation are dealt with in the Research and Development Organisation of the Civil Aviation Department. Like all research and development activities, aeronautical engineering is also a continuous one and hence the question of completing the development programme does not arise.

(c) I lay a statement on the Table showing some of the important items of work done by the Research and Development Organisation of the Civil Aviation Department. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 45.]

GORAKHPUR LABOUR FORCE DEPOT

*1633. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the Report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the closing down of the Gorakhpur Labour Force Depot;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in the matter; and

(c) whether a copy of the Report will be laid on the Table of the House?