

ted to Moghul Sarai direction, 200 wagons per day were given to down country consumers;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) what has been its effect on the manufacturing industries in Northern India;

(d) whether Government propose to restore the cut immediately; and

(e) whether in view of the expansion of industries in the above Moghul Sarai direction, Government propose to increase the quota of movement of coal wagons to 2300 per day immediately and afterwards raise it progressively to 2500 wagons per day?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (c). For coal movement in the above-Mughalsarai direction, the Railways have offered a ceiling capacity of 2100 wagons per day. However, the bulk allotment made by the Coal Controller in this direction was about 140 wagons less during the months of March, April and May. The revision was necessary on account of the revised allocations for various priorities which have been effected recently. Efforts are, however, being made within these revised allocations to see that every consumer gets supplies at least to the level of 1961.

(d) and (e). The question of increasing the allotments in the above-Mughalsarai direction, to the extent of the present ceiling, is being examined. So far as the Third Plan is concerned, the target is to raise this ceiling to 2600 wagons per day by 1965-66.

Air Crash Near Ambala

*584. { Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Air Force aircraft was smashed in an accident near Ambala on the 26th April, 1962;

(b) if so, what was the loss of life and property involved; and

(c) what was the cause of the accident?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The pilot, who was the sole occupant, was killed. The aircraft was destroyed. The exact extent of the loss involved and the cause, of the accident will be known only when inquiries are completed.

Thermal Station at Talcher (Orissa)

*585. **Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussion has taken place between the National Coal Development Corporation and the Government of Orissa regarding supply of coal to the proposed Thermal station at Talcher;

(b) whether any agreement has been reached; and

(c) if so, what is the nature of the agreement?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (c). Yes, recently such a discussion was held, in the context of a new coal-mine to be opened by the National Coal Development Corporation in Talcher. The main points considered were the cost of operation of the mine and the economics of the thermal power station which is to get coal from the proposed mine. The discussions were inconclusive and are to be continued after a further examination of the mining project has been completed.

Najafgarh Nala

*586. **Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while laying down a pipeline to connect Najafgarh Nala with other drains near Gur-ki-Mandi (civil lines) the pucca houses of 8 harijans are going to be demolished and a new curb has

been given to the originally demarcated line; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Elections

*587. { Shri D. N. Tiwary:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement of the Election Commissioner, made on the 28th March, 1962 and published in the issue of *Hindustan Times* of 29th March, 1962 to the effect that more power was desirable for effective supervision over the Returning Officers at the time of counting of votes and declaration of results; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of Law (Shri A. K. Sen): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No formal proposal has so far been made to Government by the Chief Election Commissioner who, it appears from the report, is still considering the matter as well as the specific powers which should according to him, be conferred on him.

झरिया कोयला खानों में भ्राम

*५८८. श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री :

क्या खान और ईंधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि झरिया क्षेत्र में उस क्षेत्र के भ्राम पाम की कोयला खानों में जो हाल में ही भ्राम लग गयी थी वह भ्राम बंद गई है ;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो उसे बन्दाने के क्या यत्न किये जा रहे हैं ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि इस भ्राम से खानों में पर्याप्त कोयले का भण्डार को हानि पहुंच चुकी है ; और

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस भ्राम को बन्दाने के लिये सरकार दूसरे देशों के विशेषज्ञों से भी कुछ सहायता प्राप्त करना चाहती है ?

खान और ईंधन मंत्री (श्री के० दे० मालवीय) : (क) हाल ही में झरिया कोयला क्षेत्र में कोई भ्राम का घटना नहीं हुई है। उपर्युक्त कोयला क्षेत्र में १५ भ्राम लगे हुए इलाकों में से ९ इलाकों में कोयला-बॉर्ड द्वारा बचाव के तरीकों से भ्राम पर काबू पा लिया गया है। शेष भ्राम लगे हुए ६ इलाकों में भ्राम पर काबू पाने के लिये बचाव के उपाय प्रगति पर हैं।

(ख) भ्राम पर काबू पाने के लिये अपनाये गये बचाव उपायों में डैम एवं नाकाओं (dams and barriers) का निर्माण, पृथक्करण खाइयों का कटाव, भ्राम से न जलने योग्य सामग्री से भ्राम लगे हुए इलाकों को खाली करना, रेत को ढालना और खानों को पानी में भरना आदि शामिल हैं।

(ग) यह अनुमान लगाया गया है कि झरिया-कोयला-क्षेत्र के कुल संचयों की भ्राम के कारण होने वाली हानि ०.५ प्रतिशत से अधिक नहीं होगी।

(घ) ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Book Entitled 'The Lotus and the Robot'

*589. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Koestler has written a book entitled 'The Lotus and the Robot';