

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The funds for Urban Transport are provided under the demand of the Ministry of Urban Development under different Heads. Urban Transport is one of the subjects handled by the Ministry of Urban Development. The budgetary outlay for Urban Development for 1991-92 is Rs. 179 crores. Out of this the outlay for Urban Transport is Rs. 5 crores.

Repairing of Roads in Delhi

441. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given on May 16, 1990 to Unstarred Question No. 9020 regarding repairing of roads in Delhi and state:

(a) whether large crates, pot-holes and water loggings have surfaced/taken place on majority of the roads in Delhi after the onset on monsoons in 1991;

(b) whether the roads in Delhi which were resurfaced during 1990 were reduced to a dismal state with sporadic surface erosion;

(c) if so, the reasons for not ensuring that standard material for repairs/resurfacing of roads were used as per specification;

(d) whether there is any proposal to investigate the matter and to evolve fool-proof measures to ensure laying of quality roads to check inconvenience to the public and wasteful expenditure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (e). The information is being collected from concerned

agencies and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Instability of Land Surface in the Coal Belt of West Bengal and Bihar

442. SHRI BJOY KRISHNA HAN-DIQUE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of subsidence that has caused geological instability, particularly instability of land surface in the coal belt of West Bengal and Bihar where Eastern Coal-Fields Ltd. has been operating;

(b) if so, whether subsidence is due to non-implementation of the prescribed follow-up measures by the company; and

(c) the steps the Government contemplate to tackle the problem of subsidence?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMA-GOUDA): (a) and (b). Problem of land subsidence in the coalfields areas of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. has mainly resulted from unscientific exploitation of coal during pre-nationalisation days. With a view to check the growth of habitation over unsafe areas, the office of the Directorate General of Mines Safety had declared 40 areas in Raniganj Coalfields as unsafe for human habitation as early as in 1950. The Government of West Bengal had also passed Legislation in 1979 prohibiting construction over such unsafe areas. In spite of the enactment of legislation, the growth of settlements over the subsidence prone areas has not been contained and is growing unabated. The Management of ECL could demolish houses and shift its employees to safe places whenever the situation so warranted. However, its efforts to do so for outsiders had not had the desired effect.