

(b) The Government of India are not themselves carrying out any experiments in regard to the development of cottage and small-scale industries. They are, however, conscious of the importance of this aspect of the problem and have given special priority to State Schemes which pertain to Research and experimentation for giving financial assistance.

(c) The All-India Handicrafts Board have recently selected Pottery and Earthenware and Matting for concentrated development for this year. Other cottage and small-scale industries are also, however, being encouraged through grants to State Governments and private organizations for the purpose.

COAL MINES STOWING BOARD

301. Shri N. P. Slaba: (a) Will the Minister of Production be pleased to

state whether the Coal Mines Stowing Board has been constituted or not?

(b) If so, who are the present members and what are their qualifications?

(c) Are the accounts of the Coal Mines Stowing Fund audited?

(d) Do Government propose to lay on the Table of the House the last audit report?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Apparently the Member is referring to the Coal Board as the Coal Mines Stowing Board ceased to function with the passing of the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act, 1952. The Coal Board was constituted with effect from the 8th January, 1952.

(b) The names of the present members and their qualifications are:—

Names	Qualifications
<i>Chairman</i>	
(1) Shri R. K. Ramadhyani, I.C.S. Coal Commissioner.	
<i>Members</i>	
(2) Shri N. Barraclough, Chief Inspector of Mines with the Government of India.	B.Sc. (Mining) & First Class Colliery Manager's certificate of Competency.
(3) Shri L.S. Corbett, Chief Mining Engineer (Railway Board) Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production)	B.Sc. (Mining) & First Class Colliery Manager's certificate of Competency.
(4) Shri A.B. Guha, Superintendent of Collieries.	B.Sc. (Mining) & First Class Colliery Manager's certificate of Competency.
(5) Shri M.L. Shome, Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution).	First Class Colliery Manager's certificate of Competency.

(c) The accounts of the Old Coal Mines Stowing Board used to be audited by the Auditors appointed by the Board with the approval of the Central Government. Under the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act, 1952, the accounts of the Coal Board will be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(d) A copy of the audit report of the Old Coal Mines Stowing Board, for 1950-51 is laid on the Table of the House. [S: e Appendix V, annexure No. 16]

HOUSES FOR MINE WORKERS IN RAJASTHAN

302. Shri Balwant Slaba Mehta: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the housing problem of workers in the mining industry in Rajasthan; and

(b) whether Government have under contemplation any scheme for construction of houses in that State either directly or in collaboration with mine owners?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):

(a) Government have not made any detailed study recently of the housing conditions of the labour employed in all the mines of Rajasthan generally. An inspection of the coal mines in that region, however, was made from this angle in 1950. There is certainly an appreciable shortage of housing.