

tion of coking coal mines, as such has not been under the consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Setting up of Project and Camps for Eye Operation

8399. SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI DHANDAPANI :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :
SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government has approved the Project 'Eyes of India' whose aim is to organise eye camps and undertake eye operations ;

(b) if so, what will be the total cost of expenditure involved ;

(c) whether the scheme has been worked out by the Royal Commonwealth Society for the blind in collaboration with the National Association of the Blind in India ; and

(d) if so, how far this project will help Government in producing ophthalmic specialist and for giving medical aid to the people.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) The project has not yet been formally approved by the Government of India as no detailed report has been submitted to them nor a formal request made.

(b) It is difficult at this stage to estimate cost. According to one estimate the expenditure would range between £65,000 to £85,000.

(c) Yes.

(d) The project aims at providing operative ophthalmic care to the needy in the villages and not in providing ophthalmic specialists.

Import needs of Crude Oil during 1969

8401. SHRI ONKARLAL BOHRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the import need of crude oil for 1969 was estimated at 12.36 million tonnes involving a foreign exchange worth Rs. 107 crores ;

(b) what are the actual figures of import for the said period ; and

(c) whether this heavy burden on foreign exchange was caused due to the reckless dieselisation programme of Railways, which on the other hand resulted in loss to the coal industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes.

(b) During 1969, crude oil imports amounted to 10.8 million tonnes costing Rs. 94.6 crores in foreign exchange.

(c) No. On the other hand, the production of high speed diesel oil within the country during 1969 was in excess of the requirements, and the surplus totalling 67,000 tonnes was exported.

Comparative deposits of low grade and high grade coking coal

8402. SHRI ONKARLAL BOHRA :
SHRI SAMAR GUHA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the country has larger deposits of comparatively poorer grade of coking coal as compared to higher grade of coal and in order to conserve the higher grade coal, the steel plants shall have to consume comparatively poorer grade of coal in much quantity ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Hindustan Steel Limited is offering price for higher grade of coal which is mined at less cost as compared to comparatively poorer grade of coal being mined costing heavy expenditure ; and

(c) whether this will not render comparatively low grade mines uneconomical which may result in their closing down and create unemployment problem, and also quicker extinction of limited deposits of higher grade coal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Steel Plants are already taking lower grades of coking coal after beneficiation to the extent possible.

(b) and (c). Price of coal is related to quality. The cost of mining of coal depends on several factors, such as, depth, mining conditions, extent of mechanisation, etc. It cannot be said, as a general rule, that higher grades of coking coal are mined at less cost than lower grades of coal. Again, coal mined under adverse conditions is eligible for subsidy, so that the mining operations under difficult conditions do not become very un-economical.

Frustration and Discontent among the Architectural Draftsmen in C. P. W. D.

8403. SHRI A. DIPA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that frustration and discontent prevails among the Architectural Draftsmen in C. P. W. D. on account of their low and shortspanned grade viz. Rs. 205 to 280 and poor avenues of promotion and 30 per cent of architectural draftsmen have reached the maximum of grade within last three years ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Architectural Draftsmen of C. P. W. D. have submitted a representation regarding extension of maximum of the grade ; if so, the details there of ;

(c) the action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) whether Government will reconsider the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : (a) the scale of pay of Architectural Draftsmen is Rs. 205-7-240-8-280 and is a shortspanned grade. About 18.3% of Architectural Draftsmen are, at present, drawing the maximum of the pay scale viz. Rs. 280/-. There may be some frustration among the Architectural Draftsmen on this count.

(b) Yes. The Architectural Draftsmen desire that their grade should be extended upto Rs. 380/- making it a scale of Rs. 205-7-240-8-280-10-380.

(c) There is a ban on upward revision of scales of pay and the Association have been informed that their proposal to revise the scale of pay of Architectural Draftsmen cannot be accepted at this stage.

(d) The Government can reconsider the matter only when the ban on upward revision of scale of pay has been lifted. Further the Third Pay Commission may also look into this matter.

Disparity in determination of Selection Grade of Architectural Draftsmen

8404. SHRI A. DIPA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Ministry the Health Department determines Selection Grade posts at the rate of 20 per cent of the total strength of Architectural Draftsmen, whereas the C. P. W. D., determines Selection Grade posts at the rate 20 per cent of the permanent strength of Architectural Draftsmen ; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such disparity and the steps government propose to take to rectify the same ?