

tion, measures to combat underground fires and subsidence. 41 recommendations have already fully implemented. Others are under various stages of implementation. These mostly relate to mechanisation at coal faces, introduction of hydraulic mining, replacement of basket loading by conveyors, mechanised loading at coal faces and re-vamping of rescue stations. The implementation is regularly monitored by the Govt. through the Standing Committee on Safety on Coal Mines presided over by the Minister of Energy.

Increase of Pit-Head stocks of Coal

3451. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp increase in the pit-head stocks of coal in coal mines; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Pit head stocks in the country which stood at 28.83 million tonnes on 1.4.1987 have declined to 23.59 million tonnes on 31.7.1987.

Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry-IV

3452. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether JBCCI-IV for coal industry has started functioning;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) whether there was any delay; if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) what are the issues to be settled;

(e) whether there is any possibility of early settlement; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). It was constituted on 28.11.1986 and the first meeting was fixed for 27.2.1987 but could not be held because of a Court Order. It was later held on 4.6.1987.

(d) Issues to be settled relate to wage structure, Dearness Allowance, fitment in revised scales of pay and other issues relating to service conditions.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Shortfall in Sugar Production

3453. SHRI H.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which shortfall in sugar production is anticipated as against the target during the current year; and

(b) the manner in which Government propose to meet the gap between demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). No targets for sugar production are fixed. The sugar production during the current year was 84.03 lakh tonnes as on 31/7/87 as against 69.22 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date last year. With the increased sugar production during the current season and taking into account the carry-over stock at the beginning of the season