

(b) and (c) The Central Government does not supply wheat directly to the flour mills (chakkies), though the chakkies are also free to buy wheat in the open sales organised by Food Corporation of India. Cleaning of the wheat in undertaken wherever necessary to conform to PFA standards.

[*English*]

**Mining Operations for Coal in Surendranagar District (Gujarat)**

3238. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government consider mining operations for coal in Surendranagar district uneconomical;

(b) whether Union Government have informed the State Government to exploit these resources themselves; and

(c) whether the Union and State Governments have arrived at an understanding in this regard to prevent any further pilferage of these resources?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c). In February, 1980 the State Government of Gujarat came up with a request for grant of mining lease in favour of Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited for exploitation of coal in certain villages in District Surendranagar. They, inter-alia, requested to allow the aforesaid State Undertaking to sell the coal to be mined by them on cost plus profit basis. The proposal was considered in the light of Central Government's policy regarding grant of mining lease for exploitation of small deposits of coal in isolated small pockets in the States by the State Governments through their public undertakings but the same was not agreed to.

**Post Offices in Jabalpur District**

3239. SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a post office is functioning in every Panchayat of Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh, as per the Government's policy and if so, the total number of post offices in Jabalpur district; and

(b) if not, the reasons for which a post office could not be opened in every Panchayat so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b). The network of post offices in rural areas has been developed on the basis of a minimum population of 2,000 in normal rural areas and 1,000 in backward/tribal areas, a minimum revenue of 25% of cost in normal areas and 10% in backward/tribal areas and a minimum distance of 3 Kms. from the nearest post office. The concession granted to villages which are gram panchayat headquarters is that such village are exempted from the condition of minimum population. On this basis, subject to distance and revenue conditions being fulfilled, by and large, gram panchayat villages have been provided with post offices. If the current ban on creation of posts is lifted, the cases of remaining gram panchayat villages can also be considered in the Light of prescribed norms. The total number of post offices at present functioning in Jabalpur district is 403

[*Translation*]

**Setting up of Central Industrial Unit at Navada in Bihar**

3240. SHRI KUNWAR RAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken so far on the demand for setting up a central industrial unit at Navada (Bihar); and

(b) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K.K. TEWARY): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

**Distribution of rice in Southern States**

3241. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to consider distribution of Parmal and other better quality rice produced in Northern States through the public distribution system in the Southern States; and

(b) if not, what other measures are proposed to be taken to lift the surplus stock of rice from Northern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD):

(a). Food Corporation of India procures and supplies common, fine and superfine varieties of rice of quality which conforms to the standards laid down under the PFA Act, for the public distribution system throughout the country

(b) Does not arise.

#### Industrial Stagnation

3242. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:  
SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that industrial stagnation has of late set in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM):

(a) and (b). According to C.S.O Index of Industrial Production, the rates of growth in industrial production during the last few years have been as under:-

1980-81	4.0%
1981-82	8.6%
1982-83	4.1%
1983-84	6.1%
1984-85	6.8%
1985-86	6.2%
1986-87	5.7%

(April-August)

Government have been taking a number of steps to stimulate industrial production through appropriate changes in industrial licensing and import policies as well as through monetary and fiscal measures and improvement in infrastructure.

#### Marketing of Electrical Goods with I.S.I. Markings

3244 SHRI RAM DHAN: Will the Minister

of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many electrical goods for which I.S.I. marking is compulsory are being marketed without I.S.I. marking in the country;

(b) if so, how many cases of violation have been detected during the last three years; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD):

(a). There is no electrical product required to be marketed under compulsory ISI Certification Marks Scheme of ISI at present. However, miner's cap lamp batteries and flame-proof electrical equipment for use in mines are required to carry ISI mark as per the orders of Director General, Mines Safety. The Government of India had issued a Household Electrical Appliance (Quality Control) Order, 1976 in which the conformity of the household electrical appliances to Indian Standards was made compulsory. This order was, however, revised in 1981 and presently covers 40 electrical items. Under this revised order, the State Governments are the implementing authorities and they are required to appoint the appropriate authority for implementing this order.

(b) Statistics about cases of violation of the above Quality Control Order are not available with Indian Standards Institution.

(c) Indian Standards Institution has identified a few electrical items of mass consumption for bringing them under compulsory ISI Certification Marks Scheme. The same is under consideration of the Government.

#### [Translation]

#### New Telephone Connections

3245. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of new telephone connections given during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) whether some targets were also fixed in this regard for the current financial year; and