

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From 1.1.92 to 31.3.92, 17033 raids have been conducted, 521 persons arrested, 955 persons prosecuted, 24 persons convicted and goods worth Rs. 142.82 lakhs confiscated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The rate of inflation during the period 28.12.91 to 21.3.92 has been estimated at 1.1% above the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) As per reports received 1659 persons were arrested.

(d) In addition to the monetary and fiscal steps taken by the Govt., edible oils were imported to increase their availability and steps taken to revamp the P.D.S. The retail prices of cotton sarees/ dhoties have been reduced to the level of July, 1990. The prices of electric bulbs have been reduced. The sale of economy pack quality tea, Janta soap has been commenced. The essential commodities have been spared from additional levies both in the Central Budget as well as in Railway Budget. A Cabinet Committee under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister has been regularly monitoring the prices of essential commodities and taking the necessary steps for keeping the prices under control.

Hiring of HEMM by Coalmines

6526. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hiring of Heavy Earth-moving machinery has been stopped in a phased manner in the coalmines of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. as recommended by the Expert Group appointed by the Government;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether factors responsible for under-utilization of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. owned Heavy-earth moving machinery have been eliminated; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGODA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Hiring of privately owned HEMM in Eastern Coalfields Limited has been stopped w.e.f. 1.4.1991.

(c) and (d). The factors attributable to low utilisation of HEMM in ECL have been identified and steps have been initiated to improve the utilisation.

Non-payment of Minimum wages to labourers

6527. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of non-payment of minimum wages to labourers under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana have been brought to the notice of the Union Government by some of the State Governments and by Government of Madhya Pradesh in particular;

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken in the matter;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the rates of wages to the labourers under J.R.Y.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?