

implementation of recommendations of the Altekar Committee to improve the capacity utilisation as well as the quality of washed coking coal;

- v) coking coal mines in Meghalaya & Assam are being identified to make available increased quantities of low ash coking coal.

Strikes and Lockouts in the Central Establishments in Gujarat

891. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were strikes and lockouts in some central sector establishments/industries in Gujarat during 1991-92;

(b) if so, the reasons for each of the strikes and lockouts;

(c) whether some strikes and lockouts were withdrawn;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total loss of life and property during this period; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check such strikes and lockouts?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) There was one strike in one Central Sector Establishment in Gujarat during 1991-92. It was in Indian Petro-Chemicals Ltd. at Baroda.

(b) The reasons for the same was a demand for bonus at the rate of 35% of annual earning (20% under the payment of

Bonus Act plus 15% incentive).

(c) and (d). The said strike was withdrawn on the same day, i.e., on 15.10.91. Out of 10,000 workers 2627 workers took part in the strike. The strike was withdrawn unconditionally.

(e) Nil.

(f) Before the strike occurred, the State Government machinery had intervened on 10.10.1991 and 14.10.1991.

[*Translation*]

S.T.A. Permits for Buses

892 SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to reply given to Starred Question No. 47 on July 10, 1992 and state:

(a) whether the State Transport Authority have issued permits for 3000 buses;

(b) if so, how many buses have started plying till now;

(c) whether any machinery is being set up to look into the complaints of the passengers regarding these buses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The State Transport Authority have so far issued 1007 permits for Red Line Buses till 19.11.1992.

(b) 1007 buses are plying as on 19.11.1992.

(c) and (d). A Complaint Cell has been established by the Transport Department, Delhi Admn. at its headquarters to receive complaints from general public regarding

vehicles plying in Delhi. This Complaint Cell is functioning round the clock with following Telephone Numbers:-

2515740, 2517300, 2517403, 2526902, 2526172.

Shortage of Coal in Gujarat

893. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI MAHESH KANDDIA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of coal in Gujarat especially in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the quantity of coal required and being provided to the State;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide more quantity of coal to Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (d). There have been some shortfalls in movement of coal to consumers in non-core sectors in the State of Gujarat due to priority movement of coal by rail to core sectors like power etc. However, instructions have been issued to coal companies to ensure supply of coal to the consumers in non-core sectors atleast to the extent of 50% of the linkages either by rail or by road.

Coal companies do not maintain separate data of despatches of coal for a particular district or area. Figures of State-wise despatches are however maintained by them. The total quantity of coal supplied to various consumers in Gujarat from Coal India sources during the last two years is 146.55 lakh tonnes in 1990-91 and 151.81 lakh tonnes in 1991-92. The despatches in the current of year to Gujarat are likely to be higher.

[English]

Financial Assistance to Small Industries

894. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to withdraw the facility of financial assistance to small scale units by banks on machinery and plants costing more than Rs. 35 lakhs;

(b) if so, whether the existing small industries have been adversely affected by this declaration and the new entrepreneurs are getting discouraged;

(c) whether in view of the decline in the value of rupee in the international market as also shortage of money, the Government propose to review their decision and restore the limit of Rs. 60 lakhs which has been reduced to 35 lakhs; and

(d) if so, by what time and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) No, Sir. However, the SSI classification under the priority sector is to be given only in respect of those units whose investment in plant and machinery does not exceed Rs. 35 lakhs (Rs. 45 lakhs in the case of ancillary undertakings).

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Labour Research Studies entrusted to Labour Bureau

895. SHRI S.B. THORAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the important labour research studies entrusted to the Labour Bureau during the current year;

(b) whether the Government propose to