

Village Industries Commission during the year 1988-89.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). All talukas in the concerned nine districts of Karnataka are already eligible for benefits, including Central subsidy, as per the norms provided under the National Project on Biogas Development. However, as requested by the State Government non-hilly areas could not be made eligible for higher rates of Central subsidy at par with hilly areas as notified by the Planning Commission.

Uniform Wages in Public Sector Undertakings

4125. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for variations in wages in the public sector undertakings; and

(b) whether Government propose to introduce uniform wages to employees in the public sector undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Wages vary in the Public Sector Undertakings as they are fixed on the basis of negotiated settlements between managements and Unions subject to final approval of Government.

(b) No Sir.

Closure of Coal Mines in Bihar

4126. SHRI RAMDAS SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of coal mines in Bihar have been closed down;

(b) whether some more coal mines have fallen sick and are on the verge of closure;

(c) if so, the reasons of the sickness and

closure of those mines in Bihar; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to revive these mines?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Nine mines of Bharat Coking Coal Limited, eight mines of Central Coalfields Limited and ten mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited situated in Bihar have been closed after nationalisation.

(b) Eleven mines of Central Coalfields Limited have fallen sick and have been reorganised and amalgamated with other mines. Five mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited were closed due to uneconomic working and are now amalgamated for planning an open-cost project.

(c) Reasons for closure of the mines are very high cost of production, very low productivity and in some cases depletion or exhaustion of mineable reserves etc.

(d) The following steps have been taken for improving performance of the heavily losing mines:

1. Rationalisation of manpower
2. Redeployment of manpower
3. Training for skill upliftment
4. Liberal voluntary retirement scheme
5. Improving productivity
6. Increasing production of superior grades of coal, if available.
7. Intensive monitoring of identified mines.

Facilities to Women Employees in Indian Airlines

4127. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: