

(b) whether at Patna such casual workers have launched a boycott week; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet their grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The P and T Department has been paying Bonus to all casual labourers who have worked for at least 240 days for each year for 3 years or more, as per terms of agreement with the staff unions.

(b) No such boycott was launched in Patna.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Collaboration with USSR in the Field of Portable Solar Power Plants

1272. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the programme for the development of portable solar power plants in collaboration with USSR scientists has been completed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

Spurious and Sub-Standard parts of vehicles causing Accidents

1273. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether apart from faulty designs of our vehicles, large number of spurious and sub-standard parts in the market lead to accidents;

(b) whether Government propose to suitably amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 to meet new needs; and

(c) whether Government propose to ensure easy availability of standard parts at

correct prices by arranging sale through Super Bazars and other co-operative outlets and by setting up authorised public distribution centers to overcome the present profiteering and speculative practices in automobile spares market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Though sale of spurious and sub-standard automotive spare parts in the market has been brought to the notice of the Government, no specific incident has been reported which has resulted in accident due to spurious and sub-standard parts.

(b) Ministry of Transport will shortly be coming forward with a proposal to amend the Motor Vehicle Act to empower the Central Government to make rules for laying down standards and norms for automotive parts.

(c) With a view to discourage the sale and manufacture of spurious and sub-standard automotive parts Government have taken steps to augment the production of quality components through delicensing of the industry and also through modernisation and introduction of latest technology in this sector. Government have also extended certain fiscal concessions to the auto ancillary industry to encourage production of quality components.

Illegal Coal mining in Bihar

1274. SHRI SIMON TIGGA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken to stop illegal coal mining in Bihar;

(b) the action taken to stop exploitation of the coal miners by the labour Sardars; and

(c) the action initiated by Government to stop the system of sub-contract and petty contract in mining ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act was amended in 1976