

[English]

Contract system in Eastern Coalfields Ltd., in Santhal Pargana, Bihar

351. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. of Coal India Ltd. are using contract system in the coal mines of Santhal Pargana, Bihar in prohibited sections; and

(b) if so, the action taken by his Ministry to check the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reported news about the demise of Shri Jagjivan Ram

352. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the A.I.R. in its 6 a.m. news bulletin on 4 July, 1986 inadvertently announced that Shri Jagjivan Ram was dead;

(b) whether investigation has been conducted into the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken to check such an awkward situation in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) The news of the passing away of Babu Jagjivan Ram was broadcast as a flash in the 0600 hrs. Hindi bulletin on July 4, 1986. It was the first item in the 0605 hrs. English bulletin on the same day. Soon thereafter AIR learnt that the information regarding the death of Babu Jagjivan Ram was not correct. Therefore, the news was contradicted with regret in the Hindi bulletins at 0700 hrs. and 0800

hrs. and in the 0810 hrs. English bulletin.

(b) to (d) An enquiry into this matter is being conducted.

[Translation]

Financial assistance to Bhopal Municipal Corporation by HUDCO

353. SHRI K.N. PRADHAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial assistance given by HUDCO to Bhopal Municipal Corporation for different housing schemes for weaker sections during the last three years, scheme-wise; and

(b) the amount of financial assistance proposed to be given to the Corporation during the year 1986-87 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) No scheme has been received by HUDCO from the Bhopal Municipal Corporation nor there is any in pipe line.

(b) HUDCO earmarks funds for State/ Union Territory as a whole and not for an individual agency.

[English]

Production of cotton in the country

354. SHRI NITYANANDA MISHRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of cotton this year has been more despite the less area coverage as compared to the last year;

(a) if so, the figures thereof;

(c) whether cotton growers are facing difficulty because of the surplus stock with them on account of slump in internal consumption and restrictions on export; and

(d) if so, the steps, taken or contemplated by Government to alleviate the hardships of cotton growers ?