

the past from Bihar Government for setting up Defence Production Units in the State. The State Government was informed that these would be kept in view while considering new proposals.

Coal Deposits

312. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Geological Survey of India has surveyed to find out the deposits of coal in the country during the year 1984 ;

(b) if so, the details of the areas surveyed, the findings thereof and the area in Gujrat State which has been surveyed ; and

(c) the steps being taken to explore more coal in the country to meet the increasing demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India was engaged for regional exploration of coal in different parts of the country as per approved programme items of investigation.

(b) During the year 1984, regional exploration for coal was carried out by Geological Survey of India in the States Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa and West Bengal. As a result of exploration during the period an additional reserve of 2924 million tonnes of coal was estimated. GSI has not taken up any programme of investigation for coal in the State of Gujarat so far.

(c) GSI has deployed available resources in men and material for regional exploration and assessment of additional coal resources in the country as per the long term coal exploration

programme document (June, 1982). The regional exploration programme for coal by GSI is being pursued with the objective of a balanced regional growth and to meet in increasing demand for coal in the country.

In addition, exploration for coal reserves is also undertaken by the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited and Mineral Exploration Corporation during the Sixth Plan the total drilling done was 13.71 lakh metres and in the Seventh Plan and exploration programme of drilling of 21.67 lakhs metres has been envisaged.

Steps to check Rise in Prices

313. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the steps being taken to check the rising trend of prices during the year 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : The annual rate of inflation on 5th January, 1985 has come down to 5.2 per cent as compared with 10.6 per cent at the same time last year. The focus of Government's anti-inflationary policy is on effective demand and supply management. The measures taken include strengthening of the public distribution system including procurement and buffer stocking of cereals, augmentation of domestic supplies of such items as edible oils and sugar, remunerative prices to farmers to encourage higher production, enforcement of fiscal discipline, economy in Government expenditure and mopping up of excess liquidity in the system. Government continues to keep close watch on the price situation and steps will be taken as necessary in the light of emerging trends.

Setting up a Mint at Patnagarh in West Bengal

314. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the latest position in

details with regard to the setting up of a mint at Panagarh in West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : The Site Selection Committee for a new Currency Note Printing Press has recommended Panagarh, West Bengal as a possible location. The work on its detailed project report will be undertaken shortly.

Reinstatement of Casual Labourers of Yatrik Project, Campbell Bay, Andmans

315. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken back all the casual labourers including their leader Shri Joseph Kujur of Yatrik Project, Campbell Bay (Andamans) who were put off duty consequent to their agitation for settlement of their demands in 1983 ;

(b) whether their demands for regularisation, better wages and working conditions bonus etc are receiving sympathetic consideration; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken by Government on these matters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) All the casual labourers who went on strike and resumed work after the strike was called off on 29.11.1983 were taken back. Shri Joseph Kujur and 24 other labourers were discharged on disciplinary grounds before the strike began. Since a high degree of discipline is required in the Border Roads Organisation it has not been possible to take back these persons.

(b) and (c). Their demands have been considered and the following action taken :

(i) Their wages, which are fixed in consultation with local authorities,

are revised from time to time. During the strike period, their wages were revised from Rs. 261/- p.m. to Rs. 275/- p.m. w.e.f. 1.10.1983 and from Rs. 275/- p.m. to Rs. 290/- p.m. w.e.f. 1.11.1983.

(ii) Though Bonus was not included in their demands, the same is being paid to them.

(iii) As the casual labourers are not regular central Government employees, they are not entitled to leave-travel concession available to regular employees; and

(iv) The demand regarding regularisation of labour cannot be accepted as Border Roads Organisation employs casual labour on 'as required' basis depending upon the work-load. Moreover, since the number of casual labourers required in each category/trade depends upon the nature and quantum of work, it is not always possible to re-engage them on the trades in which they were previously engaged.

However, the following facilities in their working conditions are provided :

(a) Simple accommodation near the work-site.

(b) Subsidised ration.

(c) Free treatment in General Reserve Engineer Forces MI Rooms.

(d) Free conveyance for journey by Sea/road/rail from the point of embarkation, i.e. Calcutta or Madras, to the work-site.

(e) Free sea passage to the point on the mainland and thereafter free railway warrant not exceeding Rs. 60/- per individual. on completion of satisfactory service for six months or leaving the island, whichever is later.