

armed struggle if inevitable. The Government of India are in close touch with the concerned parties like the United Kingdom, the Frontline States and the Liberation Movements and will lend possible political and diplomatic assistance and cooperation for the attainment by Zimbabwe of independence in a peaceful manner. The Government of India intends, in consultation with the members of the OAU and in particular with the Frontline States and Liberation Movements in Zimbabwe to contribute purposefully for the efforts of the international community in bringing about the establishment of majority rule in Zimbabwe.

Safety in Mines

1514 SHRI SHANKERSINGHI VAGHELA Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) the efforts made in improving safety measures in mines to avert serious accidents and save the life of miners

(b) whether there is any proposal to make it clear so that somebody could be held responsible for the disaster in mines

(c) if so the particulars thereof and

(d) the steps taken to see that the personnel in the Directorate General of Mines Safety function efficiently?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) (a) A statement is attached

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The present law adequately covers this aspect.

(d) Government have recently taken steps to fill up the vacant posts and sanctioned the restructuring of the Organisation to improve its performance.

Statement

Steps taken by Government to improve conditions of Safety in Mines

(1) Carry out routine and special inspections of mines to check compliance with law point out violations if any and take further follow up action where necessary.

(2) Carry out periodic dialogue at various levels of management on results of inspections.

(3) Draw the attention of management to any unusual incidence of accidents/increase in accidents and ask for specific action programme to arrest any such untoward rise in number of accidents.

(4) Strengthen the enforcement agency (DGMS). This includes (i) augmenting the strength and (ii) improving the service conditions so as to attract competent and qualified persons to DGMS.

(5) Setting up a SAPICOM (Survey of Accident Prone Mines and Identification of Corrective Measures) unit in DGMS to identify accident prone mines and carry out in-depth studies to eliminate unsafe conditions.

(6) Implementing the recommendations of the Report of Court of Enquiry and Conference on Safety in Mine. Two high level meetings under the auspices of the Labour Minister were held in November 76 and May 1977 to review the status of Safety in Mines. The deliberations of the above and the progress in the state of implementation of the recommendations of the Third Conference on Safety in mines were reviewed in the first meeting of a reconstituted Review Committee on 29th October, 1977.

Government are also examining the recommendations made by Court of Enquiry set up in respect of Chasnalla Kessurgarh and Sudamdih disasters.

(7) Conduct of Safety weeks as an aid to sustain the spirit of Safety consciousness among workers

(8) Training of freshly appointed Asst Managers of the Coal Companies at DGMS

(9) Organising one-week courses of mines safety for senior managerial personnel of BCCL and CCFL in September, November, 1977

Undefined Status of People of Indian Origin in Burma

1515 SHRI SHANKERSINGHI VAGHELA Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether there have been any talks with the Government of Burma regarding undefined status of a large number of people of Indian origin in Burma and

(b) if so, the outcome of these talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S KUNDU) (a) and (b) There have not been any formal talks with Burma on the status of the people of Indian origin residing in Burma who are not registered as Burmese or Indian citizens. However on a number of occasions the questions has been discussed by the leaders of the two countries. Many persons of Indian origin are *de facto* Burmese citizens under the constitution and citizenship laws of Burma though in many cases they might not have yet acquired the Union Citizenship Certificates

National Mineral Development Corporation

1516 SHRI C K CHANDRAPAN Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finalised a plan to cut down the size and role of National Mineral Development Corporation, and

(b) if so its details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA)

(a) and (b) Under the proposed restructuring of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) presently a subsidiary of SAIL will become an independent entity. The shares presently held by SAIL in the Joint-Sector Company—Mandovi Pellets Ltd are proposed to be transferred to NMDC. The existing Kiriburu iron ore mine and the Meghahatuburu iron ore project presently under the control of NMDC will be transferred to Bokaro Steel Plant since the entire production from these mines is earmarked for Bokaro. All the other steel plants already have captive iron ore mines. The intention of this is to ensure that NMDC can concentrate exclusively on export-oriented ore projects including processing plants such as iron ore pellets. NMDC would also expand in the field of Mines consultancy

पुणिया, बिहार स्वचालित टेलीफोन केन्द्र

1517 श्री लखन लाल कपुर

क्या संसार मंत्री यह बताते की कृपा करेगे कि

(क) क्या बिहार के पूणिया नगर-पालिका के अन्तर्गत पूणिया शहर गलाव बान मे अलग-अलग टेलीफोन केन्द्र है तथा इन दोनों टेलीफोन केन्द्रों में 800 टेलीफोन लाइन हैं

(ख) क्या एक स्थान पर 600 से अधिक लाइन होने पर स्वचालित