

presentation has been received in this regard As regards paper, it is reported that Orient Paper Mills & Titaghur Paper Mills have raised the prices of certain varieties of paper in January 1978 Representations have been received to the effect that publishers, are having difficulties in obtaining paper at reasonable prices for the production of books

(c) and (d) Although there is no statutory control on the prices of paper, Government have been discouraging the industry from resorting to unilateral increase in price without adequate justification Government's unhappiness at the price increases effected by some mill without consulting Government has been conveyed to the Paper Industry Statistics are also being taken to increase the availability of common varieties of writing and printing papers to ease the position of supply and bring down prices So far as polyester fibre is concerned, there is no statutory control but the prevailing prices correspond closely to the fair prices worked out by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices

Reinstatement of Adivasis of BCCL driven out by Money-lenders

3003 SHRI A K ROY Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state

(a) whether 9 Adivasi workers of Tentumari colliery of BCCL were driven out of colliery by money-lenders and impersonated by money-lenders men in 1975 in Dhanbad Bihar,

(b) whether fact was proved by a magisterial enquiry and an Assistant Manager was arrested on the charge of conspiracy for that

(c) whether these 9 Adivasis have not still been reinstated to their service, and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to reinstate these adivasis?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P RAMACHANDRAN). (a) Nine Adivasi workmen of Tetulmari colliery were unauthorisedly absenting themselves from work for periods ranging from 4 to 8 months and taking advantage of their long absence, some persons impersonated them and began to work in their place These persons were removed on detection

(b) On an FIR lodged by some persons alleging his involvement in induction of impersonators, police had registered a case against the Assistant Manager of the Colliery The officer was not arrested and was later on discharged by the Sub Divisional Judicial Magistrate Baramata Dhanbad on submission of a final report by the Police

(c) and (d) These workmen have not been taken back as they had unauthorisedly absented themselves for long periods

बिहार में कोयला खानों की श्रमिक प्रविष्य निधि की बकाया राशि

3004. श्री राजेन्द्र कुमार शर्मा : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बनान की जा करेगे कि

(क) बिहार में सभी कोयला खानों की श्रमिक वर्ष 1975-76, 1976-77 और 1977-78 की, भ्रलग-भ्रलग, प्रविष्य निधि की कितनी राशि बकाया है और इन कोयला खानों के नाम क्या हैं और इस राशि को बसूल करने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ,

(ख) क्या बिहार में अनेक कोयला खानों बन्द हो गई हैं जिसके परिणामस्वरूप बहुत से श्रमिक बेरोजगार हो गए हैं और कुछ खानों में श्रमिकों की छटनी कर दी गई है, और

(ग) क्या प्रविष्य निधि की राशि का भुगतान छटनी किए गए श्रमिकों को नहीं

किया गया और यदि हा, तो इस धनराशि का भुगतान उनको कब किया जायेगा ?

ऊर्जा मंत्री (श्री पी० रामचन्द्रन) :

(क) बिहार में सरकारी क्षेत्र की कोयला खानों से भविष्य निधि की अद्यतन भुगतायगी हो चुकी है ।

(ख) और (ग). जिला संचाल परगना को छोड़कर सरकारी क्षेत्र की कोई कोयला खान बन्द नहीं की गई। संचाल परगना में कुछ बहुत खर्चीली भलाभकर कोयला खानों को बन्द किया गया था किन्तु इन खानों में किन्हीं नियमित कामगारों की दृष्टि नहीं की गई बल्कि उन्हें दूसरी खानों में खप लिया गया था ।

Declaration of rivers Ganga, Bhagirathi and Hooghly as National Waterways

3005. SHRI ROBIN SEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to declare the rivers Ganga, Bhagirathi and Hooghly as 'National Waterways' as recommended by various Committees set up by Government;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) to (c). A proposal for enactment of a legislation for declaring certain waterways as National Waterways and to declare rivers Ganga, Bhagirathi & Hooghly as a National Waterways under that Act is under consideration. It is, however, not possible to indicate at this stage the time by which a final decision on, the proposal will be taken as

various financial, legal and administrative aspects need to be examined.

Length of National Highway in (M.P.)

3006. SHRI PARMANAND GO-VINDJIWALA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware of the fact that in Madhya Pradesh State the length of National High Ways is only 5.0 K.M. per 1000 K.M. which is very low when compared to other States;

(b) whether it is a fact that during Fourth and Fifth Plan Periods not a single national highway has been declared in the State;

(c) whether Government have received proposals from the State Government of M.P. for declaration of certain routes as National Highways; and

(d) if so, what decision has been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) National Highways in Madhya Pradesh aggregate to 2670 Kms. in length which is the second largest length of National Highways among the States. It works out to 6.01 Kms. per 1000 Sq. Kms. of area which is not low as compared to several States like Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir and Manipur.

(b) and (e). Yes Sir, but nonetheless attention continued to be concentrated on the development of existing National Highways.

(d) Due to financial constraints and other priorities Government of India are unable presently to make any new additions to the existing National Highway System.