

Movement of Coal by Railways to Gujarat

7233. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the movement of sponsored quota coal in South Gujarat is seriously affected because of the recent abrupt 35 per cent cut imposed by the Railway Board;

(b) if so, reasons for effecting such a cut; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to improve and augment the movement of coal by the railway efficiently and speedily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) No such cut has been imposed by the Railway Board.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All efforts are being made by the Railways to maintain the loading of coal to the maximum extent possible.

Project Rates to Casual Gangmen

7234. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy and principle adopted by the Ministry in the matter of giving Project Rates to the casual Gangmen working in Open Line and depriving them of the project rates again in case of their absence for more than 20 days in subsequent 6 months due to illness or other genuine reasons;

(b) justification for introducing project Rates and C.P.C. Scales partially to casual Gangmen for the same nature and specification of work in open line;

(c) total numbers of Casual Gangmen, given C.P.C. Scales and Project Rates in Dhanbad Division since 1976; and

(d) reasons for giving Project Rates, mentioning the date of introduction

of this new system in open line of Dhanbad Division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). On the open line Casual labourers are on daily wages for the first 120 days. On completion of 120 days continuous service they are granted temporary status with monthly rates of pay and are eligible for almost all the benefits given to temporary Railway servants. On projects, on completion of 6 months they are given the scale rate of pay. These are in accordance with the recommendations made by the Miabhoj Tribunal. Project casual labourers cannot be allowed to abstain from work for long periods. Hence they have been given 20 days authorised absence for contingencies like illness, etc. Any absence beyond this limit is treated as a break in the continuity of employment and they have to complete another six months of continuous service before being entitled to scale rate of pay.

(c) and (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Strike by Technical Supervisors of Sindi Unit of F.C.I.

7235. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Technical Supervisors of Sindi Unit of the Fertilizers Corporation of India are on hunger strike since 20th March, 1978 if so, details of their demands;

(b) whether it is a fact that the demand of the technical supervisors are pending before his Ministry since long and the matter is still under consideration; and

(c) if so, how long the matter will remain under consideration and what steps Government will take to end the strike of the Technical Supervisors?