

Accidental Deaths in Chandigarh Lake

361. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of many deaths due to accidents in the famous lake of Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the number of deaths that took place in the lake during the last three years, year-wise, and what are the causes of deaths; and

(c) what preventive measures Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Five deaths during 1976, five deaths during 1977 and six deaths during 1978 took place in Chandigarh lake. Reasons for suicide were as follows:—

Two boys committed suicide due to failure in their examinations, three persons due to mental disorder, six persons due to family disputes, one due to his father's annoyance and fear and one was tired of his life being a TB patient. Three boys were drowned when a boat in which they were sailing and turned turtle.

(c) One police picket has been posted to watch and patrol the lake area round the clock for 24 hours.

Conversion of Planning Commission into a Statutory Body

362. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri J. D. Sethi, a member of Planning Commission has favoured the idea of making the Planning Commission a statutory body on the model of the Finance Commission; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN): (a) and (b). These were the personal views of Dr. J. D. Sethi. No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Shortage of Coal and Coke faced by Karnataka Industrial Units

363. SHRI A. R. BADRINARAYAN: SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY: SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Industrial units in Karnataka which depend vitally on coal and coke to keep their production going were starved of coal and coke during December, 1978 and also in January, 1979;

(b) whether it is a fact that many industries had recently switched over to coal at the instance of Central Government at great cost and now they are being deprived of that fuel also;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether situation in Karnataka has grown so grave that many industries have closed down due to the short supply of coal and coke; and

(e) the help given to them so far or proposed to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV):

(a) to (e). The Government of Karnataka has reported that large and medium scale industries which switched over to coal are getting their allotments more or less regularly though not to their full requirements and that instances have come to notice that coal allotted to large and medium scale industries have been commandeered by the Railways for their own needs.