

Shri Satish Chandra : The question does not relate to the entire Khadi Board. It refers to the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan in New Delhi. There are about 18 or 19 persons who have got a very slight increment on account of the adjustment in new grades.

Shri Velayudhan : The hon. Deputy Minister said that no employee got two regular increments. May I know whether when the appointment was made, the starting salary was given with two years' increments? Were such appointments made in this organisation?

Shri Satish Chandra : I said that these grades have come into effect from April, 1956. There were no grades before. People were employed on an *ad hoc* salaries determined according to their qualifications and experience. It is only very recently that these scales of pay have been prescribed and people have been brought into these scales. I can assure the hon. Member that no double increments were given.

Shri B. S. Murthy : The question is whether certain high-salaried officers have been given increments, while the lower paid staff were not paid anything. I want to have a categorical answer from the Deputy Minister.

Shri Satish Chandra : Firstly, there is no high-salaried officer in the Bhavan. As I said, the maximum salary is that of the Manager of the Bhavan and it is Rs. 400 per mensem. I do not know how the hon. Member defines "high-salaried officer".

Shri B. S. Murthy : It is in the question.

Shri Satish Chandra : It is wrong. That is why I said that the maximum salary is Rs. 400 per mensem.

Shri B. S. Murthy : The Deputy Minister did not reply to it.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member must follow the gist. The maximum salary is Rs. 400 per mensem, and it is for the Manager.

■

Production [of Coal

*1449. **Shri Debendra Nath Sarma :** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that production of coal at Margherita and Mamdang Collieries has decreased; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a). The hon. member is presumably referring to the collieries owned by the Assam Railway Trading Company in the Margherita Field

in Assam. If so, there has been a fall in the output of the four collieries.

(b) The fall in production is mainly due to an underground fire in the Tipong Colliery.

Shri Debendra Nath Sarma : May I know whether the fall in production is due to the dispute between the management and the labourers?

Shri Satish Chandra : I am not aware of it. These are private small collieries in Assam. According to the information that I have got, there was some underground fire in one of the collieries which has been responsible for this fall in output.

Shrimati Tarakeshwari Sinha : In view of the recurring reports that underground fire is spreading in different collieries including the coal-fields in Raniganj and Jharia, may I know what specific steps Government propose to take before such fires catch up wider areas in these collieries?

Shri Satish Chandra : All possible precautionary measures are taken for the purpose. Only a few days ago, I answered a question on that subject, giving details. It is a big problem, but there is no immediate danger of the colliery fires spreading. It is difficult to extinguish them completely but they are made dormant by the efforts of the colliery-owners and some assistance is also given by the Coal Board in this matter.

Shri P. C. Bose : May I know whether the cause has been ascertained, and whether any attempt has been made to control the fire by sealing off the area?

Shri Satish Chandra : Most of the fires are sealed at present. Otherwise, they will envelop a large number of collieries. As I said, it is not possible to extinguish them completely. But they may be made in effective by certain measures taken by the collieries with the assistance—financial and otherwise—given the Coal Board.

भारत में पाकिस्तानियों का श्रमिक प्रवेश

१४५०. श्री ए० ला० बाबूपाल : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गंगानगर, बीकानेर, जैसलमेर और बाड़मेर की सीमाओं से सैकड़ों मुसलमान बिना पासपोर्ट के पाकिस्तान से भारत और भारत से पाकिस्तान आते-जाते रहते हैं ; और