

certain facilities/concessions and providing weightage to small and medium newspapers including regional language papers in the matter of release of Government advertisements, supply of publicity material, feature articles, photographs and in the release of newsprint quota etc.

New Policy for Film Censorship

119. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to adopt new policy regarding Film Censorship; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). Government is examining the whole gamut of Film censorship. Government will take a suitable decision after this examination is complete

Notices of retrenchment to employees of Beas Sutluj Link Project

120 PROF NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether notices of retrenchment have been issued to work-charged employees of Beas Sutluj Link Project, Mandi (H.P.);

(b) if so, whether a representation from the MPs and the representatives of the B.S.L. Project Worker Union has been received by Government requesting for withholding the retrenchment notices till they are provided alternate employment so as to save them from starvation by expediting the construction of Baggi Power House, component of B.S.L. project and by taking some other suitable steps immediately;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government on this memorandum;

(d) whether some of the retrenched workers were also employed on Daily wages; and

(e) if so, the number of such employees and reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUHAN DHURI): (a) to (e). The Base Sutlej Link Project, is part of the Beas Project. The main components are (i) Pandoh Dam (220 ft. high earthen dam), (ii) two tunnels of about 8 mile long and 28/25 ft. dia. (iii) 7½ mile long open channel, (iv) Balancing Reservoir, (v) 411 ft. high surge shaft, (vi) by-bass tunnel and chute, (vii) penstocks, and (viii) power house housing four units of 165 MW each, with provision for two more units. The cost of BSL Project is roughly Rs. 334 crores. Most of the civil works mentioned above have since been completed and transferred to the Bhakra Beas Management Board for operation and maintenance, as required by the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966.

At the peak stage of construction, about 36613 workmen on monthly wages and 3300 workmen on daily wages were employed. With the completion of the various civil works, a large number of workers were rendered surplus and retrenchment in a phased manner has been taking place since June, 1977. The present strength of these categories of employees is 6351 and 1600 respectively and their number is likely to get further reduced gradually, to a level required only for operation and maintenance. These retrenched employees are often employed for very short periods on daily wages, at locations close to their place of residence. The work on which they are engaged is of a casual nature.

The retrenched workers are paid retrenchment compensation as provi-

ded in the Industrial Disputes Act and other relevant Acts, and as per an agreement arrived at between the Management and the Workmen in June, 1977 the Management agreed for payment of liberal retrenchment and terminal benefits for such workmen not covered under the Acts in recognition of the long service rendered by them. Efforts are also being made through a placement Cell created on the Project to secure alternative employment to the retrenched workers in other projects in the Central and State Sectors. Nearly 9322 persons were secured jobs through the efforts of the Placement Cell up to end of January, 1980.

Regarding the Baggi power house, technical details regarding the surge shaft etc. are under discussion between the project authorities and the Central Water Commission/Central Electricity Authority. The feasibility of the Project can be established only after these technical problems are resolved. Since the Beas Project is a joint venture of the partner States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, their concurrence for Baggi power house which is an extension of the Beas Project, is also necessary. Punjab and Haryana have given their concurrence while Rajasthan is yet to convey its concurrence.

In the process of phased retrenchment, notices have been given to some workers of the BSL Project. Representations have been received in this regard. Retrenchment of the Workers has become necessary, on their becoming surplus, as a result of the works getting completed.

Revamping Coal India Limited

121. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revamp Coal India Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) and (b). Government is reviewing the present organisational set-up of Coal India with a view to making it into a more effective instrument for the growth and development of the Coal Industry in the country. Certain proposals are under examination and a final decision is yet to be taken.

Setting up of National Power Authority

122. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern India Power Engineers Federation has urged the Government for the scrapping of Electricity Boards and setting up of National Power Authority; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government on it?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) No, Sir, No such representation from the Northern India Power Engineer's Federation has been directly received by the Government. However, the Committee on Power constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri V. G. Rajadhyaksha by the Government of India in the Ministry of Energy, has met, inter-alia, the representatives of the All-India Power Engineers' Federation of which the Northern India Power Engineers Federation is also a member. During these discussions, the representatives of the Federation suggested that generation, transmission and distribution of power be totally centralised and the power supply industry operated on a three tier basis with a Central Electricity Authority at the All India level, Regional Electricity Authority for each region and Area Electricity Boards to manage distribution of power at the State level.