

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b). In its ninth meeting held on 13th December, 1977, the Central Advisory Contract Labour Board, on the basis of the report of its Committee, recommended to Government to take such a step. The matter was taken up with the Ministry of Railways and is still under consideration.

(c) Government have received a representation from the Indian Railway Coal and Ash Handling Mazdoor Union, Hooghly (West Bengal) which is being examined in consultation with the Ministry of Railways.

Women Workers in Mining Industry

425. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the participation of women workers in Mining Industry has considerably reduced;

(b) if so, what were the reasons which led to the reduction of the women workers; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) A study of trend of participation by women workers in the mining industry for the period 1941—1975 conducted by the Labour Bureau, has revealed that, there had been a steady decline till 1972 and a slight increase in the employment of women was recorded thereafter.

(b) According to the study, the decline in women's employment during the year 1941—72 was due to several factors such as, prohibition on underground work, introduction of labour-saving devices or, technological improvements in methods of production, rise in the wage rates of women and extra burden on the employers on account

of statutory requirements of provisions concerning women workers;

(c) The Government is keeping a careful watch over the trend.

Study of Work Force in Mining Industry

426. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study on the work force engaged in the country's Mining Industry;

(b) if so, the salient points of such study; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) No work force study as such has been conducted in the Mining Industry.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

पटना और दिल्ली के बीच सीधी 'सुपर फास्ट' गाड़ी चलाया जाना

427. **श्री सत्यदेव सिंह :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या देश में राज्यों की अन्य राजधानियों की तरह पटना और दिल्ली के बीच कोई सीधी 'सुपर फास्ट' गाड़ी चलाने का सरकार का विचार है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब तक ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सी. के. जाधकर शरीफ) :

(क) से (ग) : इस पर सक्रिय रूप से विचार किया जा रहा है ।