

Setting up of a price control commission

3560. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-GRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab Government has suggested to the Centre to set up Price Control Commission to devise measures to check the rising prices; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government to it?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and b). The suggestion made by the Chief Minister of Punjab relates to setting up of Price Control Commission for Basic Consumer Goods. It may be noted in this context that necessary machinery for pricing of agricultural and industrial products is already in existence. The Essential Commodities Act empowers the Central and State Governments to regulate, *inter alia*, the prices of 65 essential commodities. The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 provides for preventive action against hoarders, blackmarketeers and other anti-social elements. There is, therefore, no *prima facie* case for setting up another Price Control Commission.

Strike in Dalli-Rajhara Iron Ore Mines, M.P.

3561. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was strike in the Dalli-Rajhara iron ore mines under SAIL in Madhya Pradesh involving thousands of miners in February, 1981, if so, fact in details;

(b) whether there was attempt by the management to break the labour cooperative under the leadership of

Chhatigarh Mines Shramik Sangh (CMSS) with the help of contractors and police and that led to the flare up.

(c) whether a memorandum to this effect was forwarded to him by an M.P.; and

(d) if so, steps taken on that?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) On February 12, 1981, about 7,904 workmen belonging to the contractors' establishments and working in Dalli-Rajhara Group of mines and Danitola Quartzite mines abruptly left their work spot, demanding that their leaders including Shri Shankar Guha Neogi should be released and that they would not come to work until this was done. They have not reported for work since then.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). No such memorandum appears to have been received so far.

Age limit for retirement in Banks

3562. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the acceptable age limit for retirement in Banks is 60 years;

(b) if so, whether the tenure of the Chairman of the Punjab National Bank, United Bank of India, Bank of India and the Union Bank was to expire in 1980;

(c) if so, whether the tenure of all of them has been or was extended;

(d) if so, to what extent;

(e) whether there is difference in the duration of time extension to them.

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;