

(d) what special plans and schemes have been drawn by Madhya Pradesh Government to free and rehabilitate bonded labour by 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b). According to the State Government, 1531 bonded labourers have been identified and freed. The figure of 5 lakhs perhaps relates to the estimate in the preliminary report of a survey on the incidence of Bonded Labour jointly conducted by the Gandhi Peace Foundation and the National Labour Institute in 1978. District-wise numbers are not available.

(c) and (d). States, including Madhya Pradesh, have been requested to take urgent and efficient steps including undertaking intensive surveys to identify, free and rehabilitate bonded labour wherever existing, in a time bound programme. The State Government have informed that they will be carrying out an intensive survey, on the results of which, they will formulate and furnish their rehabilitation programmes for bonded labour.

Closure of cement units in South..

392. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that cement units in the South had been forced to close down for want of coal with the unilateral decision of the Railway Board to link all the Southern cement units with the Singareni collieries only;

(b) whether due to this sudden change in the policy most of the Southern units would get less than 40 per cent of their coal quota and thus would be in a deep crisis;

(c) if so, what were the main reasons for this decision and to what extent this decision has affected the cement units in the South;

(d) whether in view of the crisis Government have agreed to change the decision; and

(e) if so, to what extent the Ministry have initiated to save the cement units in the South?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) to (e). Cement units in the South normally get their requirements of coal from Singareni collieries as well as Chanda fields of Western Coalfields and Raniganj Fields of Eastern Coalfields. These linkages continue to be in force.

Industries with negative growth rate

393. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether as many as 59 major industries have shown a negative rate of growth going up to minus 72.2 per cent during the first 7 months of the current financial year i.e., 1980-81;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry which studied the growth pattern of 148 select industries also came to the conclusion that as many as 23 industries showed static 4 per cent growth rate during this period;

(c) if so, what is the position after 7 months of the current financial year;

(d) what were the main reasons for their minus growth;

(e) who were those 59 major industries which showed negative growth rate; and

(f) what action Government have taken now to check up this minus growth by those industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) and (e). A list of 59 industries showing negative growth rate during