

staff within the scope of the coal mines Provident Fund Scheme; (ii) the loss on compulsory stowing, i.e., caused by inadequacy of the Coal Board Subsidies; (iii) the building of canteens in accordance with Rule 64 of the Mines Rules 1955; (iv) the building of shelter in accordance with Rule 62 of the Mines Rule 1955; (v) the increased cost of current colliery stores; (vi) the increased cost of technical and planning personnel, not covered by the Industrial Award; (vii) the increased cost of demurrage on wagons caused by the new policy of compulsory loading within 5½ hours of daylight?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): The Central Government appointed a Committee to undertake an investigation into the prices of coal. The terms of reference of the Committee are:

(i) to examine and report upon the cost of production of coal/coke in the country taking into account *inter alia* the awards and other relevant factors that have a bearing on the coal production programme envisaged in the Second Five Year Plan;

(ii) on the basis of such investigation to recommend whether, and if so, what changes are necessary in the price structure of coal and coke; and

(iii) to consider and to report on the impact of the price changes recommended by the Committee on the economy of the country and on industry generally.

It is for the Committee to consider the relevancy of various factors and Government do not want to prejudice their deliberations by indicating any specific factors for consideration.

Salem Magnesite Mines

1234. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop the magnesite mines in

Salem in the Public Sector after 1958;

(b) the proposal, if any, of the Madras Government; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) to (c). The Government of India do not have any proposal at present to develop the magnesite mines in Salem. The question of their exploitation as a State enterprise is being examined by the Government of Madras.

Release of Political Prisoners

1235. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state how many political and non-political prisoners were released in connection with 15th August, Independence Day and 1857 Centenary celebrations?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): The Government of India have information only regarding prisoners released in the Union Territories. The total number of prisoners released in these Territories was 215.

Recruitment

1236. Shri J. R. Mehta: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how far the discretion of the Heads of Departments plays a part in the matter of recruitment of non-gazetted staff through Employment Exchanges;

(b) whether any Departmental Selection Boards are provided for the purpose of screening candidates whose names may be sent up by the Employment Exchanges; and

(c) if so, how are these Boards constituted, and who constitutes them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):