

(a) whether the allotted money to the District of Sambalpur under crash scheme for rural employment is yet to be put to action for completion of the work within four months ;

(b) if so, the reasons for such delay ; and

(c) the remedial steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) to (c). State Government's proposals for implementation under the Crash Scheme for Rural Employment in respect of district Sambalpur were received on July 13, 1971. They are under examination. The money that will be allotted after approval will be required to be spent before 31st March, 1972. The questions at (b) and (c) do not arise.

Fire in Jhingardah Coal Mines

5719. SHRI RANA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coal has caught fire in Jhingardah Coal Mine and a result thereof Government are suffering heavy loss ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to put out the fire and the success achieved in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Jhingurda coal is highly susceptible to spontaneous ignition. On 10.5.71 fire was detected in a part of the quarry and about 7000 tonnes of coal and shales, which had been affected by fire, were dug out. Out of this total quantity, about 1/3rd has been retrieved. Whenever a fire is noticed it is quenched by watering the affected area and digging out the coal and shale affected. The National Coal Development Corporation have also sought advice from Central Fuel Research Institute for any special action that could be taken to avoid recurrence of spontaneous fire in the coal seam.

Complaints against Officials for Corruption and Irregularities

5720. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR : Will the Minister of SUPPLY be pleased to state the designation of officials in his Ministry against whom complaints have been received for corruption, misbehaviour and other irregularities since 1967 till to-date and the action taken against those officials ?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : A statement giving the required information upto 30th June, 1971, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—721/71].

12.01 hrs.

RE. FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA (Arambagh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wrote to you, to raise this matter in the House. As ill-luck would have it, I could not get permission from you About West Bengal flood, what is the latest position ? Due to the incessant flowing of water from Mukdeshwari and Darakeswar and also the DVC discharge, the whole of Arambagh has been submerged into the water. Hundreds of houses have collapsed and thousands of men and women have been rendered homeless. I have already sent telegram to West Bengal Governor Mr. Dhavan; I do not know what has been done in this regard. Rescue party is needed and temporary shelters with food should be sent there. I am only making the statement here to draw the attention of the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER ; We have already fixed the Debate on that. We have already fixed up debate on Flood. You can speak about it at that time.

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA : In view of the serious situation there, I am referring to it.

श्री रामानुजम आर्य (पटना) : सिन्धु-एकन बहुत एलायिन हो गई है चम्पक महीयन, सब जगह ।