

since left and been replaced by Mr. E. D. Butler. Two experts, namely, Mr. F. M. Roberts, and Mr. E. L. Ellithorpe, are expected to leave the country in December, 1971. Another expert, Mr. E. J. Pope will be leaving in February, 1972. There are no proposals at present for the extension of the terms of assignment of these three experts. The fifth expert Mr. R. D. Vandersypen has been here from July 1970 and will stay upto July, 1972.

Cases of all experts are closely scrutinized before extension is given or their services obtained. Wherever Indian expertise is built up, foreign experts are not brought in.

Crisis in Coal Industry in West Bengal and Bihar due to non-availability of Railway Wagons

454. SHRI ROBIN SEN :
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :
SHRI MOHAMMED ISMAIL :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the serious crisis in the coal industry in West Bengal and Bihar due to the non-availability of Railway wagons ;

(b) if so, the approximate value of coal in stock with these mines, upto 30th April, 1971 ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to clear the accumulated stocks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 26 55 crores approximately.

(c) The non-availability of wagons for movement of coal is generally due to deteriorating law and order conditions in West Bengal-Bihar areas. Government are already

seized of the situation and are taking all possible measures.

Payment of Subsidy to Coal Mines owned by Industrial Houses

455. SHRI INDERAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether a major portion of subsidy paid by the Coal Board every year goes to coal mines owned by fourteen Industrial Houses listed in the Report of Monopolies Commission ;

(b) the names of coal mines owned by them and the amount of subsidy for stowing paid to each one of them in 1968, 1969, 1970 and upto April 1971 ; and

(c) whether Government propose to curb this payment to the fourteen Industrial Houses ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Total amount of assistance paid to Collieries in 1969-70 for carrying out stowing operations was Rs. 528.58 lakhs, out of which the amount paid to the Stowing Coal Mines owned by the fourteen Industrial Houses was Rs. 220.26 lakhs, thus constituting 41.67% of the total payment in this respect.

(b) Particulars in respect of 1969-70 and April, 1971 are given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—207/71*]. Particulars in respect of other periods are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Eligibility for subsidies is governed by the provisions of the Coal Mines (Conservation, Safety and Development) Act, 1952 and the Rules framed thereunder and payment of subsidies are made at the rates prescribed by the Central Government as provided in the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Rules, 1954. So long as the Coal Mines fulfil the prescribed requirements