

under the Act and Rules and thus qualify for subsidies, payment of subsidies cannot be denied to them without violating the Rules as that will amount to discriminating one coal mine from another.

Closure of Coal Mines

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

(a) the names of coal mines which have been closed down in between January, 1970 to March, 1971 and the amount of deposit of coal remaining underground in each one of them ;

(b) the reasons of closures by each one of them as stated by the managements ;

(c) whether Government independently tried to ascertain the real reasons behind these closures ; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (d). Two statements giving the information given in statements A and B, laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—208/71*].

Stoppage of Subsidy to defaulting Coal Mines

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

(a) whether any decision has been taken to stop the payment of subsidy by the Coal Board to those coal mines who are guilty of non-payment of wages, misappropriation of provident fund, non-payment of royalty and other gross malpractices ; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). The question of withholding payment of subsidies by the Coal Board to those coal mines who default in the payment of royalty, wages and provident fund, has been examined by the Government and it is found that it is not legally feasible to do so.

Public Holiday on Polling Day in Collieries under N. C. D. C

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

(a) whether public holidays were declared in the collieries under National Coal Development Corporation in order to allow the Workers to use their franchise in the last mid-term elections ; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). No, Sir, However, the workers were afforded all necessary facilities to exercise their franchise.

Labour Unions in Coal Mines in Talcher, Orissa

459. SHRI DEVENDRA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the number of labour Unions working in the coal mines of Talcher in Orissa ;

(b) the name of the Labour Union with the largest number of membership ; and

(c) whether it has been recognised by the National Coal Development Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR