

Further precautionary measures adopted included the slowing down of trains by the Railways, while passing over the area, regular inspection of underground workings by the officials of the Coal Board, the D.G.M.S. and the Railways, and the posting of guards.

To provide for permanent stability of the area in question, the following measures have already been adopted by the Coal Board and work to this end is in progress :

- (a) construction of cement concrete pillars ;
- (b) cement concrete walls encasing the weak coal pillars in the underground workings ; and
- (c) the filling up of the remaining voids with sand.

The estimated expenditure of the protective measures outlined above is about Rs. 4-40 lakhs (four lakhs forty thousand rupees only)

(ii) Towards unauthorised mining in Kalipahari area.

As these unauthorised mining operations have not endangered any neighbouring mine railway or road, no protective measures and consequent expenditure are involved.

(d) Action against the offenders has already been initiated by the Coal Board.

Decline in production and profits of National Coal Development Corporation

466. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production and profit of the National Coal Development Corporation have sharply declined in 1970-71 in comparison to the previous years and if so, the figures thereof ;

(b) the factors responsible for it ;

(c) whether Government propose to probe into the working of the National Coal Development Corporation in view of the serious criticisms of wastage, lack of planning and general inefficiency and anti-labour policy ; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) The production of the National Coal Development Corporation has not declined in 1970-71. The production during the year 1970-71 was 13.77 million tonnes as against 13.75 million tonnes in 1969-70.

The annual accounts for the year 1970-71 have not yet been finalised. The provisional estimate indicates a loss of about Rs. 42 lakhs as against the profit of Rs. 106.42 lakhs in 1969-70.

(b) The factors responsible for the likely loss in 1970-71 are :

(i) Increase in variable dearness allowance of the workers, increase in power tariff, and higher cost of machinery and equipment without corresponding increase in the selling price of coal ;

(ii) Inadequate demand for coal in the first half of the year ; and

(iii) Unsatisfactory transport position.

(c) and (d). The performance of the National Coal Development Corporation during the year 1970-71 (which was an unfavourable one for the entire coal industry) has been fairly satisfactory. It is not correct to say that the Corporation has been following an anti-labour policy, or that there is wastage, lack of planning and general inefficiency. Hence, Government do not propose to conduct any probe into the working of the Corporation at present.