

Unutilized trucks for Bangla Desh refugees

1633, SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state -

(a) whether nearly 400 brand new trucks which were donated by the UN Foca! Point for being used for rehabilitation work for the refugees coming from Bangla Desh are lying unutilised in the open since August, 1971 ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same ;

(c) whether the main reason for the non utilisation of the trucks is that the Central Relief Co-ordination Committee which is located in New Delhi could not make up its mind about its utilisation ; and

(d) if so, the present state of affairs with regard to the trucks and whether any of the trucks have become unserviceable ; if so, their number ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADHAKAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. 228 Japanese trucks which were received through the UNCTAD at Calcutta between 31st August and 1st September, 1971, were detained in Calcutta for some time as they could not be moved to the places of destination owing to disruption of land route communication. All the vehicles were moved to the places of destination as soon as the roads were opened in the beginning of October, 1971.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No truck has become unserviceable due to long detention. However, some Bedford and Dodge trucks from U K were received in damaged condition and required repairs before being put on the road.

Supply of Coal to Brick-Kilns in Bahraich, U. P.

1634 SHRI B. R. SHUKLA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of brick-kilns in the district of Bahraich, U. P. which operate with coal and the annual requirement of coal by these brick-kilns ;

(b) whether there has been practically a very meagre supply of coal to the brick-

kilns with the result that they are living idle ; and

(c) whether Government will take early steps to supply coal in adequate quantity to the district ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) 66 brick-kilns with an annual requirement of 20 rakes of slack coal.

(b) Yes, Sir. It has been stated by the U. P. Government that a majority of the brick-kilns are lying idle.

(c) One rake of slack coal was allotted by the Railways for Bahraich District on the 4th November, 1971. The Government of U. P. pursuing this matter with the Railways.

Production of Coal

1635 SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state -

(a) whether there is likely to be a fall in the production of coal in the current year ;

(b) if so, the extent of fall expected ;

(c) the reasons for the fall in production ; and

(d) the steps taken to step up production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The expected fall in production in 1971 may be of the order of about 5 million tonnes as compared to the production of 73.69 million tonnes achieved in 1970.

(c) Inability of the Railways to provide the required number of wagons, resulting in heavy accumulation of stocks at pit-heads and heavy monsoon which caused water logging of some working faces and inundation of a number of mines.

(d) The Railways are making efforts to increase the availability of wagons for the transport of coal. Effect of the monsoon has also now receded and it is expected that the production may pick up.