

(2) कड़ी निगरानी रखी जा रही है और पूरा खान मुल्क लगाया जा रहा है।

**Employment Potentiality and Wages in Handicrafts Sector**

5457. SHRI RAM SWARUP : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the total employment potentiality of handicrafts sector in the country and the minimum wages prevalent in this sector;

(b) the steps being taken to ensure better wages and more employment to the craftsmen; and

(c) the estimated employment to be created through this sector in the Fourth and Fifth Plans ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) to (c) . It is estimated that the handicrafts sector provides employment to over 13 lakh artisans in the country. Since handicrafts are mostly in the cottage-scale sector and are scattered through-out the country, the estimates of minimum wage level prevalent in this sector are not available. However, various policies/schemes relating to quality production of handicrafts, export promotion, designs, provision of credit facilities, exhibitions, publicity, marketing, imparting of training to craftsmen, etc., have been formulated and operated. These have helped in improving the scale and productivity of artisans, thereby creating more demand for products of this sector and helping in ensuring better wages and more employment opportunities to craftsmen.

**Appointment of a Representative on Ganga Commission and river Basin Commission**

5458. SHRI CHANDNIKA PRASAD Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND

POWER be pleased to state whether Government propose to appoint a representative conversant with inland navigation on the proposed Ganga Commission and River Basin Commission as recommended by Bhagawati Committee ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KURREL) : The Ganga Flood Control Commission recently set up by the Government of India for the preparation of a comprehensive plan of flood control in the Ganga basin and arranging its implementation by the concerned States in a coordinated manner does not provide for the appointment of a navigation expert. However, a Technical Advisory Committee has been proposed for assisting the Commission in allied technical matters. A navigation expert can be included, if considered necessary in this Technical Advisory Committee when it is set up.

**Under-employment in Handicrafts**

5459. SHRI PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to lack of stable marketing channels for handicrafts more than 10 lakh craftsmen are facing under employment and their wages are much below the minimum standard; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b). There are several marketing channels for handicrafts. About 250 handicrafts emporia are run by Central and State Governments or through registered co-operative societies, etc., all over the country. Besides these, there are hundreds of private selling establishments of handicrafts. The

number of registered exporters are of the order of 1500. It would, therefore, not be correct to assume that craftsmen are faced with under-employment. Efforts have been made by the Govt. of India as well as by States to create more employment opportunities for craftsmen by providing them credit facilities, raw materials, new designs, improved tools and techniques, training facilities etc.

**Steps to meet Shortage of Electricity  
in rural areas of Eastern Region  
of Madhya Pradesh**

**5460. SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH:**  
Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes that Government propose to undertake or have undertaken in order to meet the shortage of electricity in the rural areas of the Eastern Region of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the total amount sanctioned so far during last three years for this purpose, particularly for Rewa-Sidhi Districts in Madhya Pradesh and the number of villages electrified; and

(c) the time by which Government expect to complete the rural electrification scheme in this region ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREBL) :** (a) and (b). Eastern region of Madhya Pradesh comprises eight districts namely, Rewa, Sidhi, Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur, Baster, Surguja and Raigarh. Prior to April, 1969, the number of villages electrified were 726 and the number of pump-sets energised were 2,963. During the last three years, an amount of 795.77 lakhs was sanctioned for rural electrification in the above districts. During the last three years 2,369 villages have been electrified and 29,141 pumpsets were energised, thus, making a progressive total of villages ele-

ctrified to 3,145 and the pumpsets energised to 23,104.

The amounts sanctioned for Rewa and Sidhi districts for rural electrification during the last three years and the number of villages electrified are as under :

	Amount Sanctioned Rs. in lakhs	No. of villages electrified
Rewa	50.0	162
Sidhi	25.5	54

(c) Total electrification in the Eastern Region of Madhya Pradesh will depend on the Outlays provided for in the Fifth Five Year Plan and subsequent Plans.

The rural Electrification Corporation which has been set up in the Central Sector since July, 1969, provides additive finances to the State Electricity Boards for implementation of rural electrification schemes. The Corporation has so far sanctioned even rural electrification schemes of Eastern Region of Madhya Pradesh involving loan assistance of Rs. 365.790 lakhs for the electrification of 376 villages and 14,552 pumpsets. Out of this, a loan assistance of Rs. 34.74 lakhs has been given for Rewa Districts for coverage of 37 villages and 1000 pumpsets.

**उज्जैन स्वेदान के बाईं से कोयला की खोरी**

**5461. श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को पता है कि उज्जैन बाईं (मध्य प्रदेश) से हीरागिज बाधा के रास्ते से प्रतिदिन बड़ी मात्रा में कोयला खोरी होता है;

(ख) क्या वह सम्बन्ध में किसी धनित को गिरफ्तार किया गया है; और