

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : The recommendations of the Wage Board for Coal Mining Industry are not statutory. For this reason and for the reason that the managements have separately entered into settlements with the unions working in their establishments, it is not possible to insist on a uniform rate of Variable Dearness Allowance, varying from time to time as per the recommendations of the Wage Board.

Closure of Kotkona Coalfields in Sarguja District

399 **SRI RANABHADUR SINGH :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the closure of the Kotkona coalfields in Sarguja district ; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to restart this mine or to provide alternative employment to the laid off workers ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) The work in the colliery had to be suspended due to a lack of demand for coal.

(b) The re-opening of the colliery can be considered only after the demand for coal in the area develops beyond the capacity of the other collieries in the area owned by the National Coal Development Corporation. On suspension of work all the surplus personnel in the Kotkona Coalfields were given employment in the other collieries owned by the Corporation.

Treatment of Patients in Hospital set up at Manindragarh in Sarguja District

400. **SHRI RANABHADUR SINGH :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state the reasons why the hospital set up by his Department at Manindragarh in Sarguja District does not treat patients from the town of Manindragarh and Ghirimiri when its capacity of beds lies unutilised ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADIL-

KAR) : The reference in the Question seems to be to the Central Hospital set up by the Coal Mines Welfare Organisation at Manendragarh for the benefit of entitled colliery workers and their dependants. Subject to availability of beds, members of general public are provided treatment on payment of usual charges in the hospitals run by this Organisation. No complaints have been received by us about refusal of such treatment in the case of Central Hospital at Manendragarh.

Transfers in E. P. F. O.

402. **SHRI MD. JAMILURRAHMAN :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the inspectors of the Employers' Provident Fund Organisation are continuing for the last 8/9 years in the same cities and regions while some are frequently transferred ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to prescribe some norms in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the Employers' Provident Fund Organisation. It will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as early as possible.

Application of E.P.F. Act, 1952 to Presses and Railway Workshops in Bihar

403, **SHRI MD. JAMILURRAHMAN :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Bihar Presses at Gaya and Gulzarbagh and Railway Workshops at Jamalpur, Gomoh, Danapur have been covered under the Employees Provident Funds Act, 1952 and exemption under Section 17 (I) (b) have been granted ;

(b) whether they are paying inspection charges and submitting the returns in Appendix 'A' regularly ; if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the names of the Railway workshops and printing presses that have been covered by the said Act all over India ?