

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 ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R K KHADILKAR) (a) to (c) The Provident Fund authorities have reported that the information is not readily available. It will be collected and laid on the Table of the Sabha as early as possible.

Extensive Geological Surveys of Mineral Deposits in Bihar

404 KUMARI KAMAI A KUMARI Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether in view of the availability of large deposits of various minerals in Bhawanathi Pur Chandwa, Tori and Fatchur of Palamau District (Bihar) Government propose to conduct extensive geological surveys of these areas so that these mineral Deposits may be prospected and

(b) if so the time by which it would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) (a) and (b) Besides the geological surveys carried out earlier the Geological Survey of India currently engaged in surveying the areas of Bhawanathpur (Chandwa Tori) and Fatchur of Palamau District Bihar. As a result of these surveys large reserves of limestone in Bhawanathpur and fine clay in Fatchur Chandwa-Tori area have been located. The investigations will continue in these areas during the Fourth Plan Period.

Uniform Labour Laws

405 SHRI NIHAR TASKAR Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state

(a) whether IICCI stressed the need for a uniform and broadbased labour law which should be simple for easy implementation to replace the present plethora of labour laws, and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF REHABILITATION (SHRI R K KHADILKAR) (a) No such proposal has been received from IICCI

(b) Does not arise

Ground Rent Collected From West Pakistan Displaced Persons in Delhi/ New Delhi

406 SHRI B K DASCHOWDHURY Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 1341 on the 29th July 1971 regarding ground rent collected from West Pakistan displaced persons in Delhi New Delhi and state

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected and

(b) if so the time by which it is proposed to be laid on the Table

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R K KHADILKAR) (a) Ground rent is being charged at the rate of 3 per cent per annum of the premium in the case of West Pakistan Displaced Persons who were allotted plots in Colonies in Delhi New Delhi under the provisions of the Resettlement of Displaced Persons (Land Acquisition) Act 1948. However after the enforcement of the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act 1954 leases of Plots in Delhi forming part of the 'Compensation Pool' were issued on revised lease terms provided in the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Rules 1955. Those who obtained leases under the provisions of the earlier legislation were given the option to continue on these old terms or accept revised leases.

(b) The amount of ground rent at the rate of 3 per cent per annum recovered from the allottees of plots in West Pakistan Displaced Persons colonies in Delhi, during 1968-69 to 1970-71 is as follows. The figures are net maintained area-wise

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| 1968-69 | Rs 8.08 lakhs. |
| 1969-70 | Rs 9.08 lakhs. |
| 1970-71 | Rs 8.59 lakhs. |