

(a) whether last year purchases of Ammonium Sulphate were made at very high prices causing loss to the Government to the tune of several lakhs of rupees;

(b) whether the European suppliers sold Ammonium Sulphate to the Middle-Eastern countries at a price which was much lower than the price at which they sold to India and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the price paid by India and that paid by the Middle Eastern countries and whether Government have made any investigation into this matter and fixed the responsibility for the loss caused to the Nation ?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) The prices of fertilisers fluctuate from time to time depending upon the availability and the compelling demands at a particular point of time. Ammonium Sulphate was purchased last year at the prices prevailing at that time after negotiations.

(b) and (c). The price paid by India varied from \$ 13.25 to \$ 14.80 per Metric Tonne f.o.b. for the purchases made during the period from August 1971 to December 1971. No official confirmation is available regarding the actual price reportedly paid earlier that year by a Middle Eastern Country,

Resumption of Telephone and Postal Facilities with Pakistan under Simla Agreement

2408. SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO :
SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the arrangements have been finalised to resume the telephone and postal facilities envisaged under the Simla Agreement;

(b) if so, the nature thereof; and

(c) when this arrangement will be given effect to ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) to (c). The arrangements will be worked out when delegations of the two countries meet, as envisaged in the Simla Agreement. A date for this meeting has not yet been fixed.

बिहार की अन्न खानों के श्रमिकों का शोषण

2409. श्रीशंकर दयाल सिंह: क्या अन्न और पुनर्वास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि बिहार में अन्न की खानों की हालत दिन प्रतिदिन बिगड़ती जा रही है और इनके मालिकों द्वारा इन खानों के श्रमिकों का शोषण बढ़ता जा रहा है।

अन्न और पुनर्वास मंत्री (श्री अर. के. साहसिकर) : सरकार बिहार में अन्न खान श्रमिकों की असन्तोषजनक स्थितियों से अवगत है।

Loss incurred by Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation

2410. SHRI PRABHU DAS PATEL will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation incurred a loss of Rs. 13,76,000 during 1970-71 as against Rs. 44,82,000 during the previous year,

(b) if so the reasons therefor, and

(c) whether the Corporation had to revise the cost of the beneficiator plant from Rs. 21 crores in 1966 to Rs. 4.8 crores in 1969 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) to (c). The information is being collected from the Government of the Gujarat as the Corporation is a State Government Undertaking and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.