

Industrial Relations Machinery, settlements were reached on the 6th October, 1972 and 1st November, 1972 respectively in these two cases. Information on the extent of loss suffered by the collieries on these accounts is not available.

Demand for Coal

1475. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the latest surveys, the coal demand in the country is likely to double by the turn of decade; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to augment its production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The Fuel Policy Committee in Part I of its report submitted in May, 1972, estimated that the coal demand in the country would go up to about 190.5 million tonnes by 1980-81 as against a level of requirement of 70 million tonnes in 1970-71. The coal demand for the Fifth Plan is being assessed by a Task Force appointed by the Government and necessary production plans would be prepared for execution after the Task Force's report is received.

Change of site of proposed steel plant at Visakhapatnam

1476. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to shift the site for proposed steel plant from Visakhapatnam to some other place in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Taking over of rock phosphate deposits at Jhamar Kotra

1477. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have dropped their proposal to take over the entire rock phosphate deposits at Jhamar Kotra; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

In view of the importance of the rock phosphate deposits at Jhamarkotra for the national economy and considering the heavy capital investment and technological expertise required for exploiting the same, the question of selecting proper exploiting agency for the development of the deposits is under consideration by the Central and the Rajasthan Governments. A final decision in the matter has not yet been taken.

(b) Does not arise.

Waiving of payment of E.P.F. arrears

1478. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether payment of Employees Provident Fund arrears by employers to the tune of Rs. 3 crores has been waived by some State Governments; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?