

Exemption from transfers of office bearers of recognised Unions/Associations

246. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given exemption from transfers to the office-bearers of recognised Unions/Associations; and

(b) whether such facility has been given to both Headquarters/Branch Unions/Associations or only to the office-bearers of Headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) and (b). No Sir.

However, after discussion in the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery for Central Government employees, it had been decided that the Chief Executive as defined in the constitution of the recognised Association/Union or the General Secretary, or where the Chief Executive has not been specifically defined, the General Secretary, might be brought on transfer to the headquarters of the Head of Administration or any other office under his control, as far as possible.

Collection of Economic and Statistical data

247. SHRI P GANGADEB: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present system of collection of economic and statistical data in India needs to be improved for better policy and administrative decisions;

(b) whether field work in social sciences limited to village studies will

suffice testing of micro-surveys for supply of economic data; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SANKAR GHOSE): (a) Further improvement as possible in the system of collection of economic and statistical data and steps are being taken therefor.

(b) and (c). Regular censuses and large scale sample surveys are indeed helpful. A number of steps are being taken for improving the statistical system through the filling up of important gaps in information, improving the reliability of data and reducing the time-lag in the flow of information. Besides the censuses of population, agriculture and organised industry, a census of all non-agricultural economic activity in the unorganised sectors of manufacturing, trade, transport, construction and services is to be conducted shortly. The National Sample Survey Organisation which undertakes nation-wide surveys on social and economic subjects, has been restructured to provide more comprehensive and timely data. Its programme has been enlarged to cover new areas in which information is lacking.

Utilisation of Idle Capital in Industries

248. SHRI P. GANGADEB Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether six thousand crores of capital is lying idle in this country and not used by the industrialists for the growth of industries in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b): While it is not possible to quantify in value terms the extent of capacity lying idle

in the country, it is true that many sectors of the economy there is considerable under utilisation of capacity. The reasons for under utilisation of capacity vary from industry to industry and include factors such as inefficient management, lack of diversification of production, technical obsolescence, demand constraints etc.

(c) Government has taken a number of steps to bring about better utilisation of installed capacity. These cover actions in the field of industrial licensing (e.g. permission to diversify production in selected industries and to increase production without any limit in selected industries etc.), supply of adequate raw materials, improvement in power supply and greater allocation of funds for investment in public and private sectors.

Exploitation of Solar Energy

249. SHRI P. GANGADEB Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether vigorous co-ordination attempt is being made by Government on the lines of Manhattan project system for exploitation of solar energy in India;

(b) whether it is desirable now to conserve fossil fuel of our country; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to develop alternative resources of energy in this area of growing demand of the said power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SANKAR GHOSE): (a) Government has a coordinated research and product development programme for utilisation of solar energy. This effort for solar energy hardware development is being done to ensure future exploitation of solar energy.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government is making every effort for utilisation of solar energy.

both as direct thermal energy and also as direct conversion to electricity as an alternative source of energy. Besides, a considerable effort is being made towards the development of Gobar Gas and exploitation of wind energy and geo-thermal energy for the same purpose.

Illegal Mining in Hazaribagh and Giridih Districts

250. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether large scale illegal mining has resulted in a very serious situation in Hazaribagh and Giridih districts;

(b) if so, whether it has caused huge losses to Coal India Limited; and

(c) whether Central Coal Fields Limited are compelled to close nine of its collieries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Prior to the promulgation of Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Ordinance 1976 on 29th April, 1976, illegal mining was being carried on by some private parties in Hazaribagh and Giridih Districts. Under-selling of coal by these persons resulted in some reduction of demand of coal from Central Coalfields Ltd., and thereby affected the despatches by road to some extent. After the promulgation of the said Ordinance, the illegal mining has stopped.

(c) No. Sir.

Backward area Development Authority

251. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an authority of backward area development; and