

for the exploitation of thick coal seams of the Karanpura field in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the main terms of the contract?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) Under the project agreement, the National Coal Development Corporation will carry out working of thick highly inclined Sirka seam at Gidi—A colliery in Karanpura by adopting the French long-wall mining method with caving and false roofing on an experimental basis. The French Government will place at the National Coal Development Corporation's disposal a French Engineer and Technicians for acting as Instructors and operators at the site, and also supply special equipment such as steel props, cantilever bars, armoured chain conveyor, compressor and methanometer. The French authorities would bear the engineering fees covering technical and managerial services to be provided by them and also a fixed provision for depreciation of the specific equipment to be imported from France. The precise value of the equipment to be supplied by the French Government will be known only after the complete data in regard to the mine is available and the list of equipment is drawn up. The other expenses will be borne by the National Coal Development Corporation. They will become the full owners of the equipment after the departure of the French team.

Untouchability (Offences) Act

643. { Shri P. Kunhan:
Shri Veerappa:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases reported to the police under the Untouchability (Offences) Act in 1961 and 1962 in different States;

(b) the number of cases challaned by the police;

(c) the number of cases in which the accused were convicted by the courts;

(d) the number of cases in which the accused were acquitted by the courts; and

(e) the number of cases still pending in the courts?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) to (e). Information is being collected. A statement will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Houses for Harijans

644. Shri P. Kunhan: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allotted to Kerala for building houses for Harijans in the State in the first two years of the Third Five Year Plan;

(b) how much of this amount has been spent; and

(c) the number of houses built in the first two years of the Third Plan?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Rs. 12.01 lakhs.

(b) to (c). The exact position is being ascertained from the State Government. A statement giving the required information will be laid on the Table of the House when it becomes available.