

Traffic and Engineering Arm of the Posts and Telegraphs Department; and

(d) whether the said policy has been adhered to by the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate?

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri Jaganatha Rao): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha as soon as possible.

International Telegraph Office, New Delhi

1463. **Dr. Melkote:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Telegraph Office, New Delhi is not being supervised by Technically qualified persons round the clock especially during the period of peak load of traffic in the Evening and at night;

(b) whether for want of such effective supervision, there was a serious ease of inordinate delay to the cable concerning the death of the late Air Marshal Mukherjee; and

(c) whether Government propose to review its working and to effect proper technical supervision round the clock to avoid such recurrence?

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri Jaganatha Rao): (a) The office has adequate supervision under qualified personnel. During the slackest period, from 2 A.M. to 6 A.M. the Senior Telegraphist on duty is in charge.

(b) No, Sir; the delay of 2-1/2 hours on that occasion was due to lapses of individual officials against whom suitable departmental action has been taken.

(c) Does not arise.

Hunger Strike by Kenduadih Colliery Miners

1464. **Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:**
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Mohammad Elias:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri B. K. Das:
Shri R. S. Pandey:

Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 140 miners of Kenduadih Colliery are on hunger strike since the 12th September, 1966 about 1000 ft. below ground in dark alley of that colliery;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) whether some of the miners had to be taken out of that Colliery and removed to the Dhanbad Hospital?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):

(a) to (c). One hundred and fifty miners of Kenduadih Colliery resorted to a stay-in strike underground from September 12 to 17, 1966 to press their demand for payment of arrears of wages and bonus. Some of the striking workmen had to be hospitalised. All payments due at the time were later made on the intervention of the Central Conciliation Machinery.

Implementation of Labour Laws

1465. **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Dr. M. M. Das:

Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to undertake the evaluation studies regarding the implementation of the Labour Laws and Industrial

Relation in all public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, whether a Committee or some other organisation will be set up to do the work; and

(c) when this work will start and whether this will be a continuous process?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The studies are already being carried out by the Implementation and Evaluation Division of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Department of Labour and Employment) in collaboration with the administrative Ministry and the State Labour Department concerned. It is proposed that each public sector undertaking be covered at least once in three years.

Demand of Alcohol

1466. **Shri Subodh Hansda:**
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Dr. M. M. Das:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is already a fall in the demand for Alcohol in India;

(b) whether the distillers are facing a crisis due to the reduction in the demand in U.P.;

(c) whether part of the product is exported abroad;

(d) whether this has relieved the distillers; and

(e) whether an expansion will be allowed in view of the present capacity being not fully utilised?

The Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals (Shri Alagesan): (a) No. In the first half of the year, there was slow off-take on account of the tem-

porary closure as a result of an accident in the synthetic rubber factory at Bareilly (U.P.).

(b) One or two distilleries did face hardship due to lack of off-take and jamming of their storage tanks because of the sudden stoppage in the lifting of alcohol by the synthetic rubber plant at Bareilly.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes, to a very large extent.

(e) Under the Notification issued by Government on the 13th May, 1966, 'Power Alcohol' has been exempted from the registration and licensing provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, which in effect means that no licence is required for setting up a new unit or for expanding an existing unit.

Any shrinkage in domestic demand of alcohol can be offset by exports.

Plantation Workers in West Bengal

1467. **Shri Kolla Venkaiah:** Will the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether in West Bengal, Tea plantation workers resorted to a General strike in August, 1966;

(b) if so, what were their demands; and

(c) the action taken by Government in relation to each of their demands?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):

(a) Yes.

(b) The demands were as follows:

(1) Immediate fixation of need based minimum wages.

(2) Payment of arrear D.A. in accordance with the Minimum Wage Notification of 1959.

(3) Restoration of ratio of labour per acre to the 1954 figure as per Menon Commission findings.