

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No. Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
(c) No. Sir.
(d) Does not arise.

Shares of M.T.N.L.

3993. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has floated its shares in the market;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether employees of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have been offered these shares;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) and (b). MTNL shares held by the Govt. were disinvested to the extent of 34.27% in 3 branches.

Month/Year of disinvestment	No. of Shares disinvested	%age
Feb., 1992	120000000	20.00%
March/April, 1994	76935300	12.82%
Oct., 1995	8685660	1.45%
	205620960	34.27%

No fresh issues of shares were made by MTNL.

(c) to (e). No Sir, this was not found feasible in view of the employees of MTNL being on deemed deputation from DOT, Government of India.

[Translation]

Sphatic Reserves in Bihar

3994. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether 'sphatic' (quartz) reserves have been found near Lohardaga in Bihar;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the traders of Calcutta and Orissa are illegally purchasing the said mineral in large quantities from the villagers; and
(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b). Occurrences of quartz (sphatic) in the hard rock

terrain of South Bihar including Lohardaga are geologically possible. However, being a low value mineral, Geological Survey of India has not done any systematic estimation of reserves of quartz in the area.

(c) and (d). Government of India have no information about such illegal purchase of mineral from the villagers. This being a State subject, the State Government of Bihar have directed the District administration at Lohardaga to keep vigil and take appropriate legal action wherever such illegal activities are noticed.

Child Labour in Aligarh

3995. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a number of child labourers are working in lock industry of Aligarh;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the number of child labourers employed therein and details of their age-group, average working hours and monthly income; and
(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for their welfare?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). According to Sample Survey conducted by Uttar Pradesh Development System Corporation Limited (U.P. DESCO), around 15,000 children are working in the lock industry in Aligarh. These children work on an average for 8-10 hours a day and their average monthly income is Rs. 254.15 per person. According to this sample survey, 70.70 per cent of these working children are in the age-group of 11 to 14.

(d) A National Child Labour Project was started in 1987 with a view to rehabilitating children withdrawn from hazardous occupations including lock industry in Aligarh and putting them in special schools where they are provided with non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health check and stipend. So far under the Aligarh Child Labour Project 30 special schools have been sanctioned to rehabilitate 2500 children. Funds have also been sanctioned for conducting surveys and awareness generation against the evils of child labour.

[English]

Discontinuation of Bogies in Punjab Mail

3996. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the Punjab Mail running from Delhi to Bombay via Bhopal, a first class bogie which was a part of the rake has since been discontinued and replaced by an AC-3 tier coach;