

(b) It is a matter for the State Governments to consider.

Coal Ash Produced by National Rayon Corporation

5365. SHRI D. BASUMATARI : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coal Ash being produced at National Rayon Corporation was being disposed of free of cost for the past 8 years : and

(b) whether at the insistence of the new Directors of the Board tenders were invited and the said Corporation shall now fetch Rs. 5 lakhs per year from the sale of the same coal ash ?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) :

(a) In the Inspection Report under 209(4) of the Companies Act, 1956, there are references to disposal of coal ash, free of cost, during some of the years.

(b) According to the Inspection Report, the matter was considered by the Board in March, 1970, and necessary steps were taken to call for tenders. It is observed by the Inspector in this context that it is learnt that the company has awarded the contract for clearance of coal ash to Messrs National Transport Co. at Rs. 5.31 per ton.

Ban on Planting and Cultivation of Hashish

5366. SHRI CHENGALRAYA

NAIDU :

SHRI R. BARUA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to ban planting of the Hashish and its cultivation in the country ;

(b) whether State Governments have been consulted on this issue and if so, their views ; and

(c) whether any licensing system would be set for permitting cultivation and planting of Hashish in certain areas of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA

CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b). Cultivation of cannabis plant for production of Hashish (Charas) is banned since long in the country.

(c) Question does not arise.

12.01 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh) : I would like to raise a point. I had given notice of a calling attention motion regarding the agitation in Chandigarh and the discontent among the people there. The reply which was given by the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. K. C. Pant, was absolutely unsatisfactory. He had said that there was a responsibility of the Central Government towards the people of Chandigarh. I want to know whether the Chandigarh Administration's recommendations contained something irresponsible which compelled the Minister to say that they also owe a responsibility towards the people of Chandigarh.

The position is that the rents in Chandigarh are increasing at a high rate, that a student to hire a room for Rs. 70 per month, and a Government employee who gets Rs 300 has to pay Rs. 150 for his accommodation.

Kindly hear me because you have not admitted my calling attention motion.

An agitation is going on. Hunger strikes and chain fasts are being on for eight days because the problem is so serious, it is affecting 59 to 60 thousand people. All Government employees, students and members of the trading community are very much hard hit, and this is why this has become a mass movement there. The agitation is of the common man there. Now they are resorting to hunger strikes and chain fasts, and the Minister must assure us as to when they will bring the necessary legislation or at least the regulation of rents. This is a very serious problem which is agitating the minds of the Chandigarh people for a long time.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH (Buxar) : The Minister may be asked to make a statement regarding the atrocities committed in the Midnapore Central Jail. Yesterday it was raised specifically.