

[Translation]

Child Labour

901. SHRI D.P. YADAV :
SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference of Labour Ministers of various States of the country was held in Delhi recently;

(b) whether any scheme to abolish child labour system in the country was considered therein; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme being implemented and the details of the amount of assistance being provided for these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) A conference of States/ U.Ts. Labour Ministers was convened on 22.1.97 to finalise a concrete action plan for giving effect to the directions of the Supreme Court regarding rehabilitation of children working in the hazardous occupations and regulating and improving the working conditions in respect of children working in the non-hazardous occupation. It was decided in the conference that in the first phase survey would be conducted to identify such children working in all establishments in urban and semi urban areas and hazardous occupations in rural areas. Simultaneous action would be taken to recover an amount of Rs. 20,000/- from offending employer. State governments are also required to suitably strengthen the enforcement and monitoring machinery and ensure full compliance of the directions of the Supreme Court.

[English]

Gauge Conversion

902. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received by the Government for conversion of Indore-Ratlam rail line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A survey for gauge conversion of Mhow-Indore-Ratlam has been taken up at a cost of Rs. 2.8. lakhs.

(d) Does not arise.

Telephone Connection on Priority

903. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections sanctioned on out of turn priority under the discretionary power during the last three years;

(b) how many of them were installed in J&K during that period;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Phones to Kill' published in the 'Frontline' dated December 13, 1996 at pages 31-33;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to hand over the case to CBI for further investigation; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) A total number of 39880 out of turn telephone connections were sanctioned under discretionary power during the last three years.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Out of 26 requests of telephone connections in a single list a total of 12 out of turn telephones were sanctioned for J&K Circle on 24.1.1991 vide diary numbers 13742 to 13753 by the then Hon'ble MOS (C).

(e) and (f) The matter is under examination of the Vigilance wing of the Department of Telecommunications. Further action, as appropriate, shall be initiated as per the requirement.

Royalty Rates of Minerals

904. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI VIJAY PATEL :
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
SHRI B.K. GADHVI :
SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an All India Mines and Geological Conference was held in December, 1996 at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the points discussed in the Conference;

(c) whether the Government propose to revise the royalty rates on minerals;

(d) if so, whether the State Governments have been consulted in this regard; and

(e) the details of revision of royalty on minerals in each category?