

Index of Industrial Production (IIP) averaged a growth rate of 3.8 per cent in April-January, 1996-97, less than half the 8.2 per cent in April-January, 1995-96.

(c) 1997-98 Budget proposals include that Oil Exploration and Industrial Parks will qualify for the five year tax holiday under section 80IA of the Income Tax Act. An assignability agreement between the Department of Telecommunications and the financial institutions has been reached and this would facilitate funding of cellular and basic telecom projects. The Budget, 1997-98, provides for enhancement of budgetary support to the National Highways Authority of India from the existing Rs. 200 crore to Rs. 500 crore.

[Translation]

Subsidence of Coal Mines

*390. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether incident of land subsidence taking place in several coal fields;

(b) if so, the number of such cases came to the notice of the Government during the last three years;

(c) the estimated loss of human lives and property on account of these incidents; and

(d) the steps taken to provide proper safety to the people working in and living around the coal mining belt in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The problem of unplanned subsidence is mainly confined to Raniganj and Jharia coalfields of West Bengal and Bihar respectively.

There have been 25 incidents of subsidence in the above areas during the last three years i.e. 1994, 1995 and 1996.

(c) The incidents of subsidence did not result in any loss of life. However, there had been some damage to the property as given below :-

Eastern Coalfields Limited

- (i) A Kutcha hutment was partially damaged in the subsidence that took place in Pandaveswar area in 1994.
- (ii) A small wall was damaged in the subsidence that took place in Satgram Incline in 1995.
- (iii) Company's sub-stations was affected in the

subsidence that took place in Jambad OC in 1996.

- (iv) 24 company's quarters were partially damaged in the subsidence that took place in Naba Kajora in 1996.

Bharat Cooking Coal Limited

- (i) 3 unauthorised Kutcha houses developed cracks in the subsidence that took place at East Katras in January, 1995.
- (ii) 60 company's quarters were damaged in subsidence which took place at Bagdigi Colliery in August, 1995.
- (iii) 3 company's quarters were damaged in subsidence that took place at Bansdeopur Colliery in August, 1995.
- (iv) 22 dwellings and 350 quarters were affected due to subsidence at Loyabad Colliery in February, 1995.
- (v) 400 company's quarters and Agent's Office were affected in the subsidence that took place at Industry Colliery in May, 1995.
- (vi) 346 houses were affected in the subsidence that took place at East Bhuggatdih in March, 1996.
- (vii) 219 unauthorised private houses in Chouthai Kulhi area of Central Jharia at East Bhuggatdih developed cracks in October, 1996.

(d) Some of the steps taken to protect people living over the subsidence prone areas in Jharia and Raniganj coalfields are given below :

- (i) Wherever feasible, action is taken to stabilise unstable underground workings under the built-up area;
- (ii) To establish an innovative technology of hydropneumatic sand stowing, field trials are being carried out in 5 localities to stabilise water-logged underground workings under the built-up area;
- (iii) Delineation of water-logged unsurveyed underground voids has been examined through a number of research and development projects;
- (iv) The concerned coal companies have been publishing appeals in local newspapers informing the residents about the instability of the underground workings below the built-up area and requesting them to vacate;