

Disaster in ECL Mine in Raniganj

*53. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the disaster happened recently in Raniganj in the coalfield of Eastern Coalfields Ltd.;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the details of the measures proposed to be taken to prevent such types of accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d). An accident occurred at 4.00 A.M. on November 13, 1989 in the Mahabir Colliery of M's. Eastern Coalfields Ltd. as a result of inrush of water from abandoned shaft connected to Upper seam which were water-logged, into a seam where development work was in progress. Out of 220 persons working in that seam, all but 71 could come out through a working shaft before water accumulated there and made it unusable. The trapped persons took shelter in the rise side of the workings and conveyed their position by telephone. A borehole was drilled from the surface and food and essential supplies were sent to them from the early morning of November 14. A larger diameter bore hole was drilled and 65 trapped persons were brought out in a capsule fabricated by the Company by the morning of November 16. Search parties were sent subsequently through the bore hole to locate the remaining 6 persons but were unsuccessful. Following the dewatering of the working shaft, the bodies of these persons were recovered, the body of the sixth person

being found on December 23, 1989.

2. Officials of the Directorate General of Mines Safety are conducting statutory inquiry into the accident. The Coal India Ltd. has also constituted a committee of experts to look into the circumstances of the accident and to suggest measures to prevent recurrence of such accidents.

Rojgar Yojana for Urban Poor

*54. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Rojgar Yojana for the urban poor like the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana for the rural poor is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof and how do these compare with those of Jawahar Rojgar Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b). The Nehru Rozgar Yojana which aims at providing employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed was launched by the Government of India in October, 1989.

The Nehru Rojgar Yojana has three components:

- (i) supporting the urban poor for setting up micro enterprises in all urban settlements;
- (ii) provision of wage employment through creation of socially useful public assets in the jurisdiction of urban local bodies having (a) population below 20,000; and (b) population between 20,000 and 1 lakh;

- (iii) provision of employment through housing and shelter upgradation for settlements having a population between 1 lakh and 20 lakhs.

Within the ambit of urban poor, women beneficiaries and beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will constitute special target groups under the Nehru Rozgar Yojana.

During the year 1989-90 the Government of India has made a provision of Rs. 150 crores for the Nehru Rozgar Yojana. State Governments/local Bodies are expected to contribute Rs. 68 crores. This would enable institutional finance to the extent of Rs. 364 crores to be availed of from Scheduled banks and HUDCO. Besides, housing finance available from banks and HUDCO for economically weaker sections to the extent of Rs. 68 crores could also be tapped for the Programme.

2. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana aims at providing wage employment to the rural poor. Under Nehru Rozgar Yojana also there is a wage employment component for settlements below 1 lakh population. The sharing of expenditure between the Centre and State Governments under Nehru Rozgar Yojana is the same as under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana i.e. 80:20. In the case of settlements below 20 thousand population, the material labour ratio is 50:50 just as in Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. However, in the case of settlements between 20,000 and 1 lakh population, the material labour ratio provided is 60:40. In both the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Nehru Rozgar Yojana the wages payable would be the prevailing minimum wage applicable to the area. Under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana there is a provision for wages to be paid partly in foodgrains. There is no such provision under Nehru Rozgar Yojana where wages are paid entirely in cash.

Scarcity of Yarn

*55. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the steps proposed to be taken by Government to remove the difficulties faced by handloom and powerloom weavers due to the scarcity of yarn and other reasons?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): No reports of scarcity of yarn used by handloom and powerloom weavers have been received by Government, even though there have been occasional complaints in regard to availability of specified counts of doubled cotton yarn in specified pockets. This has been mainly due to mismatch of production and demand due to seasonal factors and power cuts. The prices of yarn which have been on the increase during the past over two years have started showing a softening trend during the past three months. Government is keeping a close watch over the availability and price situation of yarn. For this purpose, a Hank Yarn Price Monitoring Committee has been constituted on 27th July, 1989. Yarn depots have also been set up in different parts of the country through the National Handloom Development Corporation to supply hank yarn to handloom weavers at mill-gate prices.

Integrated Development of small and medium Towns in Orissa

*56. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the towns of Orissa so far covered/proposed to be covered under the scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns;

(b) whether Government propose to revise the whole criteria to bring into its purview the integrated development of more