

[Shri Dhirendranath Basu]

ting allotment order. The State governments do not have a proper screening machinery to weed out the bogus units. A survey conducted in Meerut showed that no less than 106 of 185 coal allottees were bogus. In this town alone a bogus allotment of one lakh tonnes per year would have taken place if the Coal India had not detected the blackmarketeers. Another survey still in progress in Bombay has already brought to light bogus claims for allotment totalling 50,000 tonnes. More than 50 such blackmarketeers have been detected in Calcutta.

The black market premium in some northern States like Punjab is as high as Rs. 100 per tonne. Thus an allottee who gets a mere 500 tonnes can make a tidy profit of Rs. 50,000 without lifting a finger.

Indication are that lakhs, perhaps millions of tonnes of coal are in this way going into the hands of blackmarketeers instead of genuine consumers. This explains why genuine users are complaining of shortages at a time when coal despatches have hit all-time records.

The pilot surveys have made it abundantly clear that middlemen have entered the coal trade in massive way in order to get allotment and sell them at a premium.

So, may I request the hon. Minister for Energy to make all efforts to stop such malpractices and blackmarketing in the coal business.

(v) REPORTED DEATHS IN SAFDARJUNG HOSPITAL DUE TO TETANUS.

SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR (Pondicherry): I am raising a very important matter and I thought the Health Minister would be here. He was here upto this moment but he has now left. Even the ex-Health Minister who was here for some time is not there. This is a matter concerning the health of the people of Delhi. So I hope the Minister

will make a statement either this evening or tomorrow.

I would like to mention the very disturbing news reported about five tetanus deaths in the general wards of the Safdarjang hospital. The effects of this deadly infection in a hospital dealing especially with surgical cases, to say the least, can be extremely serious, and it is of vital importance that all-out measures should be taken to rid the hospital of this infection.

It is heartening to note that wards and theatres of this hospital are being sealed systematically and fumigated and all patients treated for tetanus.

I have no doubt that the government would enquire as to how this infection was allowed to creep into the hospital and would also ensure that the hospital is completely rid of the infection. It is also necessary that precautionary measures should be redoubled to prevent the onset of this insidious infection again.

An urgent review of position in all other hospitals in India has also become necessary.

In the other House they have raised the matter and the Minister so far has not come out with any statement. I am afraid the hospital authorities have partially denied and I wish they take a serious note of it because the other day when the two hon. Members of this House met with a serious scooter accident there was an allegation that there was no proper treatment given. These public institutions and hospitals must be properly looked after and I was expecting the Minister to be at least present to listen to me when I raised such a serious matter. I request that you may please pass on this to the Minister.

SHRI ANNASAHAB KOTKHINDE (Sangli): I have given notice under Rule 377. What has happened to that?

MR. SPEAKER: It has not been selected for today.