

(b) Does not arise.

**Release of DBC**

\*174. DR. C. SILVERA:  
SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA  
MUNDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on issue of double barrel connections in the country, especially in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to lift the ban?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA): (a) to (c). A second cylinder is released to LPG consumers in a planned manner subject to product availability and backlogs in LPG supplies. In the context of the recent Gulf crisis, restricted availability of the product and backlogs, release of a second cylinder has been withheld all over the country till the situation improves. Actions are being taken to augment availability of the product, its speedy movement, enhanced bottling and to steps up delivery of refills so as to reduce the backlogs.

[Translation]

**Condition of Labourers In South Eastern Coalfields Limited**

\*175. SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether labourers are engaged by contractors for carrying coal from mines, to load and unload coal in trucks in Gabra (Bilaspur district) Mehgaon and Katkona

(Surguja district), Rajnagar and Bijuri (Sahdola district) under South Eastern Coalfields Limited;

(b) whether these labourers are paid one fourth or one third of the minimum wages fixed by law by the contractors;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to declare all these labourers as regular workers of the Coal India Limited;

(d) whether the case of contractors versus labourers of Gabra Project is pending with the Chief Labour Commissioner, Delhi for the last four years; and

(e) if so, the reasons for the delay, and if not, the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) The contractors engaged by SECL for coal transportation and loading in Gevra, Bhatgaon, Katkona, Rajnagar and Bijuri execute the jobs; by mechanical means and not by manual.

(b) SECL has reported that transport contractors pay to their workers wages varying between Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000 per month depending on their designation. Mainly, drivers, khalasis, mechanics, helpers are employed by contractors for driving and maintenance of tippers. While the minimum wages fixed by the M.P. Government under the Minimum Wages Act is reported to be Rs. 21/- per day of Rs. 546/- for 26 working days of a month, no worker of the contractor is reported to be paid less than Rs. 750/- per month.

(c) Contractors' workers are not employees of the SECL and the question of employing them as regular workers of the coal company does not arise.

(d) and (e). A complaint demanding payment for contract workers at par with