

**Delay in Settlement of Insurance
Claims of Flat Owners of Gopala
Towers, Delhi**

*168. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that many of the flat owners in the Gopala Towers, Delhi which caught fire in 1983, have not so far been given their insurance money;

(b) owners of how many flats have not been given their insurance claims;

(c) whether he is also aware that some of these flat owners are retired Government servants and ex-servicemen and are hard hit by this delay; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to expedite their claims ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The insurance policy on the building was taken from Oriental Insurance Company Limited in the name of United Towers India Private Limited and not in the name of the individual owners of the flats in the building and hence, no payment of insurance claims could be made to the individual owners of these flats.

(c) Government had received representations from Gopala Tower Flat Owners' Association, *inter alia*, to this effect.

(d) Oriental Insurance Company Limited have since decided to admit liability of the claim lodged by the insured, *inter alia*, keeping the representations of the Flat Owners' Association in view, and have appointed surveyors to assess the loss.

Export of Iron Ore to China

*169. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Chinese delegation visited India and examined the various facilities for the export of minerals in the country;

(b) whether they visited Orissa to explore the possibility of iron ore export to China;

(c) if so, their reaction after the visit to Orissa;

(d) whether Government of China have expressed their desire to import iron ore from India; and

(e) if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The delegation appeared to be impressed by the quality of Indian iron ore.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) During the year 1986 China is likely to import 1 to 1.5 million tonnes of iron ore from India.

Price Stamping on non-cotton Fabrics

*171. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to extend the scheme of price stamping to non-cotton fabrics; and

(b) if so, when the scheme is proposed to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). Revised textile control orders to extend the existing scheme for price stamping on cotton cloth to non-cotton fabrics have been received by the Government. Action has already been initiated to finalise the control orders.

**Modernisation Programme for
Mining Industry**

*173. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an ambitious modernisation programme for the mining industry has been drawn up for the Seventh Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard so far as the question of amount for upgrading of technology is concerned ; and

(c) whether Government have considered that since the power, steel and cement sectors depend heavily on mineral products, the mining cost would have to be brought down to ensure that there was no general inflation in the economy ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) to (c). Modernisation of mining methods is a continuing process. Steps taken in regard to mining are generally a part and parcel of the mining project. Modernisation programmes for the mines of Public Sector undertakings under this Department have been drawn up during the Seventh Five Year Plan. The mines of the Public Sector Undertakings e.g. Hindustan Copper Limited, Hindustan Zinc Limited, Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, Bharat Gold Mines Limited etc. have their own plans of modernisation. As per Science and Technology Plan of the Department, outlays proposed for the Seventh Five Year Plan are of the order of about Rs. 65 crores. This will cover the schemes for improved operating practices, improved resources recovery, development introduction of new technology for better performance, improving productivity and environmental control, augmentation facility for ore dressing etc.

During the 7th plan, in regard to coal mines, introduction of large capacity excavation equipment, mechanisation, modern power support longwall equipment, telemonitoring systems etc. are contemplated. Similarly, in the mines of public sector units engaged in the production of non-ferrous metals, modern equipment and techniques are being introduced, where possible.

Efforts are being made by the Government to deploy, as far as practicable, modern equipments and machinery alongwith the import of modern technical know-how in the mining operations so that the cost of production of minerals may be considerably reduced. The minerals required for the mineral-based industries like, power, steel and cement etc. are being mined both in the public sector and private sector. Efforts will have to be made by the public as well as the private sector for reduction in cost. While it is

difficult to spell out any specific measures in this direction, it is being impressed on the public sector to examine their cost structures, and to reduce them so that their products become competitive.

Proposal regarding Introduction of Automatic Licensing System

*175. DR. G.S. RAJHANS :
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Small and Medium Exporters (ICSME) has urged Government to introduce automatic licensing system to facilitate the actual users to obtain the basic material without having to resort to any cumbersome procedure;

(b) whether Government have examined the representation of the ICSME;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (d). A few representations have been received urging the Government to introduce Automatic Licensing system but it has not been found possible to agree to this suggestion. However the matter is still under examination.

Mining/Quarrying of Limestone in Dehra Dun—Mussoorie

*177. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working group constituted to examine the question of mining/quarrying of limestone in Dehra Dun—Mussoorie headed by Shri D.N. Bhargava has submitted its report to Government ;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.