

the State the road condition and communications are hopelessly deplorable and nothing has so far been done during the last 10 to 15 years by the State Government or by anybody for improving the road conditions, may I know the reason for dropping this proposal of the Government of Bihar, especially in view of the fact that there are no plans for improving road communication or any communication either by the railways or by the Transport Ministry ?

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN : The proposal was very carefully examined and it was felt that the correct thing would be to increase the rate of royalty, so that Bihar Government gets more money with which they can undertake the work of developing the roads, etc. I may add that although the amount of royalty collected is sizeable, we have a feeling that the same amount is not spent for the improvement of communications in the mines areas. It is used somewhere else.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA : In view of the fact that the royalty collected goes to the Consolidated Fund of the State, because of various popular demands from all over the State for road, communications, the State Government finds itself in difficulty in spending the entire money of royalty on those particular areas where mining is done. What harm is there, according to the ministry, if this additional levy is made, especially in view of the fact that the colliery owners are willing to pay this amount, provided it is earmarked for improvement of roads and communications in those areas ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question, but a suggestion for action.

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN : The proposal was examined at great length by the Mineral Advisory Board. The proposal was also examined by the Planning Commission. It was also referred to the Ministry of Law to find out whether the imposition of a cess would be sustainable in a court of law. They advised us that it may not be sustainable and the correct thing would be to increase the rate of royalty, so that Bihar Government would get more money. Recently the royalty has been substantially enhanced for coal, iron ore, kyanite and other minerals. So, the Bihar Government would get a

sizeable amount of money to improve the roads in those areas.

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that there is already a cess in Bihar for development of road and other things in mining areas and a Mines Board has been constituted in Hazaribagh and Dhanbad districts. Will the hon. Minister advise the State Government to constitute mining boards for all the mining areas and allow them to levy cess on all the mining projects ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is a suggestion. He can ask for factual information.

फैक्चरल इनफर्मेशन पूछी थी उन्होंने तीन परसेंट के बारे में। उसका जवाब आ गया है। अब डिबेट तो नहीं हो सकती है।

I will pass on to the next question.

Taking Over of Whole-Sale Coal Trade in Delhi

*886. **SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take over the wholesale coal trade in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA : Have the government thought of any alternative arrangements now to meet the demands of the consumers ?

MR. SPEAKER : In reply to your question about taking over he said "No, Sir." Now you can ask why the answer is "No, Sir".

SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA : I want to know whether the government is thinking of making any other alternatives to meet the demands of the consumers.

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN The hon Member would be glad to know that the Bharat Coking Coal Corporation are being sponsored by the Delhi Administration for a quota of 450 wagons per month. It is a public sector undertaking and we hope by their coming in the situation would probably improve.

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY May I know whether Bharat Coking Coal has offered to supply coal at the rate of Rs 135 per tonne to be supplied at Delhi with a marginal profit provided it is passed on to the consumers?

अध्यक्ष महोदय थोडा सा गीजेनेबल तो हुआ करे। कहीं से कहीं ला कर मिला दिया।

Strike By E P F Employees

*887 **SHRI VAYALAR RAVI** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the employees of the office of the Employees Provident Fund Commissioner have given notice of a strike to put as their demands,

(b) if so, their demands and the reaction thereto, and

(c) the steps taken to avert the strike?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) The Provident Fund Authorities have reported as under

(a) No, Sir. However, the All India Employees' Provident Fund Staff Federation which is an unrecognised Federation had in a letter dated 29-1-1972 to the Chairman Central Board of Trustees, Employees Provident Fund stated that if certain demands were not settled within three months, they would be free to adopt such course of action as they deemed fit without giving further notice.

(b) A list of the demands is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) The demands were placed before the Central Board of Trustees of the fund at its meeting held on 11-5-1972. The Board has appointed a committee to examine the demands except those which do not fall within the purview of the Board. The demand relating to House Rent Allowance is under Government's consideration.

Statement

LIST OF DEMANDS

- 1 *The scales of pay of Class III and Class IV employees* To bring the scales on par with those prevalent in the Banking and Insurance Industries and in other autonomous Organisations of a similar character viz., Indian Oil Corporation, Food Corporation of India etc.,
- 2 *Payment of House Rent Allowance* 50% of the pay in respect of the employees of Maharashtra region and 5% more than the present rate of H R A to all other employees of the Organisation.
- 3 *Sufficient Staff sanction* To be provided to all regions to meet the staff requirements to various sections.
- 4 *Status of the Organisation* The Organisation should be declared as an Industry and the Federation and all its affiliated unions/associations should be accorded immediate recognition.
- 5 *Merger of U D C and the L D C cadres*
- 6 *Regularisation of all Ad-hoc appointments* All ad hoc appointments should be regularised irrespective of the length of the period of service.
- 7 All repressive measures let loose on the employees in various forms should immediately be withdrawn.
- 8 *Creation of new posts*

(1) The post of Record Sorters should be created minimum of