

own priorities. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not possible to have our own infra-structure activities in those areas so that we may not depend on them?

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA: For the first time there was deterioration in the law and order situation in the eastern division and that is why the State Government's cooperation has been sought. In West Bengal particularly, the Chief Minister has taken some steps to see that the law and order is maintained and he has asked the DIG to take strong action against those miscreants who create trouble in that area. Regarding the construction of roads and other things it is true that before taking over of the coal mines, those areas have not been fully developed. Now that the mines have been taken over by the Government, certainly it is the duty of the Coal Mines Authority to see that those areas are developed and the infra-structure there is also developed. In the case of Jharia coal-fields, there was the Jharia Development Board which was collecting the cess from the coal mines. This was done under certain Act which is a very old At. But the Jharia Development Board has not functioned for long. Now the State Government has been asked to revitalise that Development Board for construction of roads, etc.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATTIA: Is it a fact that some of the State Governments have suggested to the Government for releasing a number of small deposits in this area to the private sector and, if so, is it the policy of the Government to release certain small deposits to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): Certainly not. It is not the policy of the Government to give it to private sector.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: May I know from the hon. Minister

whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought any assistance to develop the Singareni collieries because the production schedule there is quite satisfactory as compared with the production of coal in other mines.

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: The Singareni coal mines are doing very well. In order to increase their production, if they ask for any assistance we shall certainly do everything possible to help them.

अमजीवी पत्रकारों के लिए तृतीय वेतन बोर्ड:

*266 श्री माधवराव सिधिया :
श्री ज्ञानेश्वर प्रसाद यादव :

क्या अम मंत्री यह बताने को कृपा करेंगे कि अमजीवी पत्रकारों के लिये तृतीय वेतन बोर्ड में नेशनल यूनियन आफ जर्नलिस्ट्स के प्रतिनिधित्व के बारे में गत अप्रैल में संसद् में व्यक्त किये गये विचारों के सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने क्या निर्णय किया है तथा उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): The views expressed in the course of Supplementary to Starred Question No. 831 answered on 25th April 1974, have been noted by the Government. Decisions are, however, yet to be taken in regard to the appointment of workers' representatives and other members and Chairman of the Wage Board.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: In reply to a similar question in April this year the hon. Minister stated that the representation of the Working Journalists on the proposed Third Wage Board would be decided on the merits of each case. I would like the Minister to throw some light on this and give us definite criteria on which the merits of each case are going to be decided. Secondly, the D.A. and wages of the Working Journalists have not been revised for over five years

and you will be surprised to know that the minimum pay to a Working Journalist is below the national minimum which has been fixed by the Third Pay Commission. This alone demands implementation of the proposal to set up the Third Wage Board because the Working Journalists are suffering. I would like to know the definite date by which the proposed Wage Board will be set up.

SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I have already stated in my reply that that decisions are yet to be taken in regard to the appointment of workers' representatives and other members and Chairman of the Wage Board. Therefore, the decision with regard to the Working Journalists is also yet to be taken.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I seek your protection, Sir. The Minister has not given a definite answer. The Government had two years to consider this proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The Minister is constantly indulging in waffle. He must introduce some clarity in his answer. I want to know the definite criteria and also the definite date by which the proposed Wage Board will be set up.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is already over.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You allowed the member to put a question, and you have to see whether the Minister gives the proper reply or not.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: He has not replied at all not to speak of its being proper.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is already over. He got a chance to ask a supplementary.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: But what about the reply?

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: Are you satisfied Mr. Speaker, with the reply that he has given.

MR. SPEAKER: Short Notice Question. Mr. Samar Guha.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Intensified programme for family planning

3. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assessment of progress of the projects and programme of the family planning;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether any intensified programme has been adopted, and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Studies carried out reveal that awareness of Family Planning is of the order of 60—70 per cent in the rural areas and 70—80 per cent in the urban areas. Since the inception of the programme 14.9 million couples whose wives are in the reproductive group have been protected by one or the other family planning methods. It is estimated that 17.2 million births have been averted till May, 1974, and the birth-rate is estimated to have come down to about 35.6 per thousand population by the end of 1973-74.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. A statement showing measures adopted to intensify the family planning programme is placed on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

The following measures have been adopted to intensify the Family Planning Programme.

(1) It has been decided progressively to integrate family planning in a larger development package especially of