

Talks with Bangladesh for Communication Facilities

*466. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was held between the high officials of India and Bangladesh on the 4th August, 1978 at Tinbigha, Cooch-Behar, West Bengal, to provide for a corridor/gangway/flyover to facilitate communications between Bangladesh and Dahagram enclave; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held at that meeting?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) and (b). On 4th August, 1978, representatives of our Border Security Force and those of Bangladesh Rifles met at Tin Bigha to discuss a request of the Bangladesh Rifles for communication facilities to and from Dahagram on an *ad hoc* basis. The Indian side made some counter proposals stressing the principle of reciprocity. These negotiations were inconclusive.

Increase of Casualties in Coal Mines after Nationalisation

*467. SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since the nationalisation of coal mines in the country casualty rate has gone up in the coal mines; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). Coal Mines have been nationalised progressively over a period of time ending with the year 1973. There is no discernible pattern of rise or fall in the casualty rate. The year 1975 was abnormal on account of the major tragedy in Chasnala.

2. A statement is laid on the Table of the House giving the number of accidents and casualties since 1971.

Statement

Referred to in reply to part (a) and (b) of Starred Question No. 467 by Shri Sukhdeo Prasad Verma, answered in Lok Sabha on 21-12-1978.

Year	No. of Accidents		No. of persons		Rates per 1000 persons	
	Fatal	Serious	Killed	Seriously injured	Death Rate	Serious injury Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1971	199	1,460	231	1,542	0.60	4.03
1972	200	1,534	217	1,616	0.53	3.94
1973	172	1,904	237	1,975	0.50	4.15
1974	200	2,066	232	2,163	0.46	4.28
1975	222	2,135	664	2,211	1.26	4.23
1976	209	1,800	296	1,877	0.58	3.68
*1977	216	2,093	237	2,177	0.47	4.38
*1978	148	1,535	164	1,582
Upto November						

* Provisional.