

that area, the site chosen as SITE continuity station was Raipur in Chhatisgarh area. It was chosen by the earlier Government as the place where the TV station was to be set up. (Interruption) I am merely pointing out that Raipur was chosen as a place for a TV station as a continuity scheme. It is there and it is running. It is in Chhatisgarh. It has been served by that. But the TV transmitter unlike the Radio Station covers a very limited area and so, it is not possible to cover the entire area. At the moment, Nagpur is not under consideration. But after 1981-82, whenever satellite goes in space, perhaps we could consider.

(Interruption)**

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record.

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड में पूर्वकालिक चेयरमैन और निदेशक के रिक्त पद

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* 332. श्री गंगा प्रकाश सिंह :

श्री जनार्दन पुजारी :

श्री मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को पता है कि कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड में अनेक उच्च पद काफी समय से रिक्त पड़े हैं, और उन को भरने के लिये अभी तक कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गई है जिसके कारण कोयले के उत्पादन में भारी बाधाएँ खड़ी हो रही हैं;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो पूर्वकालिक चेयरमैन और निदेशक (आणिश्रितिक), निदेशक (कालिक) के पद कब से रिक्त पड़े हैं और इन के न भरे जाने के कारण क्या हैं और पूर्वकालिक चेयरमैन एवं पद रिक्त रखे जाने का क्या औचित्य है;

(ग) क्या सरकार देख में कोयले की मांग को ध्यान में रखते हुए और प्रशासनिक आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए इन पदों को तुरन्त भरने के लिए कोई कार्यवाही कर रही है; और यदि हाँ, तो तत्सम्बन्धी व्याख्या क्या है ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). No higher posts in Coal India Ltd. have been lying vacant for a long time. The post of Chairman is

being held by the Secretary, Department of Coal in addition to his own duties from 16-9-1978 when the previous Chairman-cum-Managing Director relinquished his charge after the expiry of his term of office. Action has been taken to fill up the post on a permanent basis. The post of Director (Commercial) is not vacant. There is no post of Director (Personnel) in the Coal India Ltd. Coal production has not been affected.

श्री गंगा प्रकाश सिंह : मंत्री महोदय ने प्रश्न उत्तर में कहा है कि कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड के अध्यक्ष एवं को स्यासी रूप से भरने के लिए कार्यवाही की गई है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अब तक इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है। इस पद को भरने के लिए अब कितना और समय लगेगा और इसके चयन की प्रकृति क्या है ?

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: Action has been taken and the process is being set in motion. The person will be selected very shortly and will be in position in the next few weeks.

श्री गंगा प्रकाश सिंह : मंत्री महोदय ने यह भी बताया है कि इस पद के रिक्त रहने की वजह से कोयले के उत्पादन पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा है। मंत्री महोदय का यह उत्तर ठीक नहीं है। इस लिए मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि 1977-78 और 1978-79 में कोयले का प्रत्यक्ष-अवयव कितना उत्पादन हुआ है—बहु बढ़ा है या कम हुआ है ?

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: The coal production has not been affected because the Chairman has not been appointed. Temporarily, the Secretary, in addition to his duties, is the Chairman of the Coal India Ltd. at the moment. With regard to production, in April to November, 1977, the production was 62.01 million tonnes whereas from April to November, 1978, it was marginally up to 62.85 million tonnes. So, that shows that the production has not been affected because of this shortfall in vacancies.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Continued vacancies at the top in coal India has virtually pushed this

**Not recorded.

holding company into paralysis. You know, Sir, the coal has disappeared from the market throughout the country especially in Delhi. That is the report. The people of this country are being forced to pay more because of the Mismanagement of the Coal India Ltd. and already the company has started suffering losses.

Hence, as you know Sir, in this context, if we go through this answer what is the answer given by the Minister to this specific question? I may be permitted to read the question that is put:

"If so, the time since when the posts of full-time chairman, Director (Commercial) and Director (Personnel) have been lying vacant and the reasons for not filling these posts and the justification for keeping the post of 'Full-Time Chairman' vacant."

The answer given is that it is not vacant and the Secretary is functioning as the Chairman. I wonder whether the answer is convincing. Further this has created dissatisfaction and frustration among 7000 officers in this holding company and further, under these circumstances, my question is: What action the Minister is going to take so as to remove this anomaly and also to remove the bottleneck in the management of this Coal India.

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, about the post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Coal India, as soon as the vacancy had arisen steps were taken to select a suitable person and as I told you earlier, the post will be filled up in the coming few weeks and already the candidates are being interviewed by the Public Enterprises Selection Board and as soon as the interview is over and the selection is made, the person will be appointed in a couple of weeks.

About the other posts, there is no post vacant in the Coal India. In fact, in the Coal India. Director (Com-

mercial) is already there and there is no other post at the higher level which is vacant in Coal India. That is why when I say about the Chairman, even though the vacancy of Chairman is there for the last couple of months, the Secretary in such circumstances is holding the additional charge of the post of Chairman and the Chairman will be appointed in a couple of weeks. About the question of production, the production, as I told you, has not suffered because of this. After all, subsidiary companies are in charge of production normally and there the CMDS are very much in position and they are producing enough coal and there is no scarcity at the pit heads and if there is scarcity in some spots, that may be due to a variety of reasons, but definitely coal is available in plenty in the country.

श्री० हरीराम पक्कासर गोदार : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय यह कह रहे हैं कि कोयले की कमी नहीं है। लेकिन कोयला ठीक दाम पर कहाँ मिल रहा है ? 500 रुपये टन तो कोयला आज भी मिल रहा है, 500 रुपये टन के भाव पर कोयले को मिलने में कमी नहीं है जिस का नतीजा यह है कि ईट आज 250 रुपये हजार बिक रही है। जिन इलाकों में बाढ़ आई है या जहाँ सूकाने आए हैं वहाँ के लोगों को कंसेशनल रेट पर ईट मिलने की बात तो दूर रही, सही दामों पर भी नहीं मिल रही हैं और न कहीं कोयला नियमानुसार ठीक दाम पर मिल रहा है। तो क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बारे में आवश्यक कदम उठाएंगे जिस से कोयला सही दाम पर लोगों को मिल सके और जहाँ बाढ़ आई है या सूकाने आए हैं वहाँ लोगों को ईट सही दाम पर मिल सके ?

SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, as I explained before in the House, the statutory price of coal is fixed at the producing point.

When it comes to the market, there is no control on its price and it is for the State Government to bring in necessary (Interruptions) it is absolutely for the State Governments to step in and control the price of coal in the market. When coal is available at the production-end, it is for the consumers to take it. I had

explained a little while ago that the coal is available at the pit-heads and even out of the four coal-producing companies, under the Coal India, in two companies which have been affected by floods, there is a short-fall in production while in the other two companies where the floods have not affected, the production has gone up by 8 to 9 per cent when compared to last year.

So, there is no question of production being affected because of lack of an official or Chairman. (*Interruptions*) I cannot help that. As I told you on the last occasion, the cost of production is going up because of various other reasons. (*Interruptions*) As I told you, the price is not controlled; the price is fixed only at the pit-heads. This statutory price is fixed by Government whereas, in the distribution centre, it is for the State Governments to step in and, if they want, they can bring in the coal under essential list. (*Interruptions*).

12.03 hrs.

[SMT. PARVATHI KRISHNAN in the Chair]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly listen to the Minister.

Now the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Insufficient drainage of National Highways

*324. DR. SARADISH ROY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investigation has been undertaken by Government as to insufficient drainage system on national highways specially during the high floods in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the findings of the investigation;

(c) if not, when such investigation will be undertaken; and

(d) measures taken for drainage of excess waters on national highways in West Bengal in view of high floods level during the recent floods there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) National Highways are generally provided with sufficient Cross Drainage system. However in the context of recent unprecedented floods in West Bengal, investigations have been undertaken to assess damages to National Highways and consider remedial measures.

(b) Investigation where completed have indicated need for strengthening and improvement of cross drainage works etc.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Roads were made trafficable at the earliest. Immediate further remedial measures to restore the flood affected stretches of National Highways to pre-flood conditions are in hand. Wherever investigations have been completed, suggested remedial measures such as strengthening and improvement of cross drainage works etc. have been/are being undertaken. It has however to be noted that drainage problems of highways are linked with the overall problem of riverine floods and drainage in any area.

Production of Controlled Cloth

*325. SHRI P. S. RAMALINGAM:
SHRI C. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mills have let down Government in regard to production of controlled cloth expected of them;