

production and price control on cotton textiles.

(b) and (c). The purpose behind the introduction of these controls was to ensure adequate supply of varieties of cloth of mass consumption at reasonable prices to the consumers. Government are satisfied that this purpose, in, by and large, being served. Government, therefore, do not propose to lift these controls at present.

Coal production during Fourth Plan

*400. Shri George Fernandes:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri J. H. Patel:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a cut in the estimated production of cooking and blendable coal for the Fourth Plan period; and

(b) whether this cut would adversely affect the targeted expansion of the capacity of our steel plants?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Narrow-gauge Railways

*401. Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhuri:
Shri Vishwanath Pandey:
Shri Y. A. Prasad:
Shri N. K. Sanghi:
Shri P. Parthasarathy:
Shri Hem Raj:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government-owned narrow-gauge Railways are running on heavy loss;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the question of converting these narrow-gauge railways into meter-gauge and broad-gauge has been considered by Government; and

(d) if so, the details of the decision taken?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) Narrow Gauge sections are generally running at a loss, but there are a few exceptions.

(b) Traffic offering on most of these sections is too low for economic working.

(c) The question of converting Narrow Gauge lines into Broad/Metre Gauge is reviewed from time to time.

(d) As a result of the review, Adipur-Bhuj Narrow-Gauge line in Saurashtra was converted into metre gauge.

बिहार में रेलवे लोक-सेवा प्रयोग

*402. श्री विभूति मिश्र :
श्री जे० ना० तिवारी :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री 4 नवम्बर, 1966 के तारंकित प्रश्न संख्या 113 के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए कि बिहार राज्य की आबादी 5 करोड़ से अधिक है, सरकार का विचार इलाहाबाद और कलकत्ता के रेलवे सेवा प्रायोगों की दानापुर स्थित वर्तमान शाखा कार्यालय के स्थान पर बिहार में एक पूर्ण रेलवे सेवा प्रायोग स्थापित करने का है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार का विचार इस प्रायोग को कब तक स्थापना करने का है ?

रेलवे मन्त्री (श्री जे० मु० पुनवाबा) :

(क) जी नहीं क्योंकि राज्यों या प्रदेशों के आधार पर रेल सेवा प्रायोगोंकी स्थापना करना सरकार की नीति नहीं है ।

(ख) सवाल नहीं उठता ।

Reorganisation of NCDC

*403. Shri Manibhai J. Patel:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhaneshwar Meena: