

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 की 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 की कब तक स्थापना करने का है ?

रेलवे मन्त्री (श्री जे० मु० पुनवावा) :

(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:

Shri K. Pradhani:
 Shri Hoorji Bhai:
 Shri Sharda Nand:
 Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:
 Shri Ranjit Singh:
 Shri Ram Singh Ayarwal:
 Shri Hukam Chand Kachwal:
 Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 817 on the 7th April, 1967 and state:

(a) whether the question of reorganisation of the National Coal Development Corporation has since been examined; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) The question of the reorganisation of the National Coal Development Corporation is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Establishment of Khetri Copper Project

*404. Shri B. S. Sharma:
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

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

(a) the names of the foreign firms with which negotiations are going on for the establishment of Khetri Copper Project;

(b) whether the work on this project has started and if so, the number of foreign experts employed and the details of expenditure incurred on them; and

(c) whether considerable number of local people have been employed on the project and the total expenses incurred on the project and the details thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) No negotiations are going on with any foreign firms for the establishment of the Khetri Copper Project at present.

The National Mineral Development Corporation has already entered into agreements with (i) a group of French companies consisting of M/s. Venot-Pic, Ensa, and others for supply of plant, equipment and engineering services under French Consortium Credit, and (ii) with M/s. Western Knapp Engineering Company of U.S.A. to act as advisers to the Corporation for assistance in evaluation of the French bids, review of the estimates of capital cost and profitability, design and specifications, etc., and for shaft sinking.

(b) Yes, Sir. Six American experts have been deputed by the Western Knapp Engineering Company for the shaft sinking operations. An expenditure of \$3,35,469 in foreign exchange and Rs. 1,13,794 in Indian currency has been incurred for this purpose.

(c) Yes, Sir. About 95 per cent of unskilled and semi-skilled labour, forming the bulk of the employees, are local people. The percentage of local persons in skilled and technical posts of lower categories, and ministerial posts is about 50 per cent. Technical personnel employed in higher categories are mostly outsiders due to non-availability of qualified local persons.

An expenditure of about Rs. 7 crores has been incurred on the project upto the end of March, 1967. The details are as under:—

	(In rupees) laks
Mining	46
Prospecting (including payment to Indian Bureau of Mines)	41
Civil Works	90
Consultancy	78
Tools, Plant and Machinery	81
Stores, Establishment and other miscellaneous	364
TOTAL	700