

against budget estimates of about Rs.5884 crores in 1996-97;

(b) whether it has also been decided to "remove" non-poor from PDS system as also to increase the cost of foodgrains for them at PDS; and

(c) if so, the rationale justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The proposals to streamline Public Distribution System (PDS) with focus on poor is under consideration in consultation with States/UTs and details are yet to be worked out.

Allotment of Wheat and Rice at Lower Rate than Central Issue Price

2197. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat and rice is allotted at rates lower than the Central issue price by the Food Corporation of India to those hostels in the country where more than two thirds of resident students belong to SC/ST and OBC category;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such hostels in Maharashtra presently being allotted wheat and rice at lower rates with district and hostel-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To ensure adequate standards of Nutrition in Institutions meant for the Welfare and Development of Weaker Sections, the Govt. launched a PERMANENT scheme in October, 94 under which foodgrains (rice & wheat) are issued to SC/ST/OBC Hostels throughout the country at Revamped Public Distribution System rates which are Rs.500 per MT lower than the Central Issue Prices

for Public Distribution System. Only such hostels which have at least 2/3rd of the total number of inmates belonging to SO ST/OBC categories, are eligible to receive concessional foodgrains under this scheme. The scale of issue of rice and wheat (in any proportion taking into account the food habits in different areas) will be as per nutritional requirements of residents subject to a maximum of 15 kg/month/resident. The periodicity of supply to the hostels will be at least once a month; the hostels having the option of lifting foodgrains from the PDS outlets; or directly from FCI godowns; or from Civil Supplies Corporation godowns. As per assessment made by the Ministry of Welfare the total annual requirements of foodgrains for the scheme would be 2.45 lakh M.T. p.a.

(c) As per latest information, furnished by Govt. of Maharashtra, subsidised foodgrains are being supplied to 3171 hostels in the State. District-wise and Hostel-wise details of the beneficiary hostels are not maintained by the Central Government.

Accidents in Coal Mines

2198. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal mines in which fire is continuing, State-wise;

(b) the number of mine workers died in underground mines because of fire or water logging or accident during last five years, year-wise;

(c) the details of special safety measures Government have taken; and

(d) whether there is any collective insurance taken by Government for mine workers, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Fire exists in 74 coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL).

There is no case of fire continuing in any mine of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). State-wise break-up of mines under CIL where fire is persisting is as under:—

State exists	No. of mines where fire exists
Bihar	50
West Bengal	15
Maharashtra	3
Madhya Pradesh	5
Orissa	1
	74

(b) Number of fatalities of mine workers in the underground mines of CIL and SCCL during the last five years on account of fire, waterlogging or other accidents are as under:—

Year	No. of fatalities due to		
	Fire	Water logging	Other accidents
1991	—	—	95
1992	—	—	133
1993	3	—	115
1994	55	—	124
1995	—	77	92

(c) Preventive steps as laid down in detail in the Coal Mines Regulations 1957, directives of Directorate General of Mines Safety. Expert Committee recommendations as also in the recommendations of various Courts of Inquiry, Safety Conferences, etc, are adopted by the mine managements. For better observance of these steps. Government is promoting self-regulation by coal companies through internal safety audits, workers participation in safety management, tripartite/bipartite reviews at various levels, training and retraining of work persons, observance of safety weeks and safety campaigns and national safety awards. -

(d) Though there is no group insurance scheme for non-executive workers of CIL, they are covered under Life Cover Scheme of the National Coal Wage Agreement—V. In SCCL, the following insurance schemes are in operation:—

- (a) Janta Personal Accident Insurance Scheme;
- (b) Group Insurance Scheme;
- (c) Family Benefit Insurance Scheme and
- (d) Group Gramscna Personal Insurance Scheme.

Royalty Rates for Different Ores

2199. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering enhancement of royalty rates to States for different ores; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Mines constituted a Study Group to consider the existing rates of royalty on major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing) and to recommend to the Government, *inter-alia*, rates of royalty which would be conducive to rapid development of the mineral sector.

The Study Group after due deliberations and consultations with the State Governments and other concerned has submitted its Report to the Central Government. The salient recommendations of the Study Group include rationalisation of royalty rates and enlargement of the scope of ad-valorem basis for royalty rates.