

(b) whether stress has been given at this seminar for harnessing more wind-power energy in the country, especially in Tamil Nadu.

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY (SHRI BABAN RAO DHAKAR): (a) and (b) The Symposium on Wind Power Development held recently at Madurai reviewed the status of wind power development and came to the conclusion that it is feasible and can supplement conventional power in a short time. It called for a major programme and policy thrust for harnessing the vast potential of wind energy in the country. It suggested the formulation of a wind power development plan, and continuation of the existing promotional and fiscal incentives during the Eighth Plan. The Symposium stressed the need for acceleration of indigenous production of wind power equipment.

Bi-partite Wage Agreement in Coal Industry

270. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bi-partite Wage Agreements in coal industry still remain un-implemented and as a result there of unrest is growing among the workers;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken so far to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALME): (a) to (c) The provisions contained in the National Coal Wage Agreement-IV in regard to pay, allowances etc., have been implemented. The implementation of welfare measures such as construction of houses, water supply, medical facilities etc., is a continuing process and since nationalisation there has been considerable improvement in these areas as would be observed from the position given below:

	At the time of nationalisation	As on 1-1-1990
Houses	1,18,366	3,37,921
Water supply (As on 1-5-73)	16.62 Million Gallons per day	79.12 Million Gallons per day
Hospitals	52	277
Beds	1482	4776
Dispensaries	197	426
Doctors	444	1548
Ambulances	42	568

However, the Trade Unions have been asking for introduction of the Retirement Benefit Scheme, which was mentioned in the Notes of Conclusion of National Coal Wage Agreement-III. This matter is under consideration of the Govt. as a general policy. Another provision contained in clause 9.44 of N.C.W.A.-III providing for employment to one dependent of the retir-

ing employee could not be implemented as it was found violative of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India. Further, the implementation of the Agreement is reviewed regularly in the meetings of the Joint Bipartite Committee for the Coal Industry and its Standardisation Committee.