

ing structures are also taken up for conservation of water. Step wells are also being converted into sanitary wells with a view to eradicate guineaworm in affected areas.

(c) In Madhya Pradesh, out of 26,647 problem villages in 35 Tribal Sub Plan Districts, 26,531 problem villages have so far been covered with atleast one source of safe drinking water facility. Out of 16,785 identified problem villages in the districts covered under Special Component Plan (Harijan and Backward), 16,743 problem villages have already been covered with atleast one source of safe drinking facility.

Changes in Labour Laws

देश में पट्टाधृति प्रणाली का उन्मूलन

510. श्री राम चन्द्र विक्रम: क्या शहरी विकास यंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या समूचे देश से पट्टाधृति प्रणाली का उन्मूलन करने सम्बन्धी कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

शहरी विकास यंत्री (श्री मुरासोली मारन):

(क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) चूंकि भूमि राज्य का विषय है, इसलिये अपने-अपने राज्यों में भू-धृति पद्धति के बारे में निर्णय लेना, राज्य सरकारों का कार्य है।

511. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plans are under Government's consideration for changes in the Labour Laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS

PASWAN): (a) to (c) The review of the labour laws is a continuing process with a view to making amendments as required according to the needs of the changing situation.

Calcutta Circular Railway System

512. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent news report appearing in a section of the Press that the work of Calcutta circular railway system could be completed within six months;

(b) what is the problem being encountered in the execution of the work; and

(c) what steps have been taken to get the work started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction work on the remaining 3.5 km length of the project from Ultadanga Road to Dum Dum junction is held up on account of obstructions caused by encroachers on Railway land.

(c) Assistance- of the State Government has been sought.

Subsidence and Accidents in Raniganj Coalfield

513. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing incidences of subsidences and accidents in the coal mines of ECL in Raniganj Coalfield;

(b) if so, what were the numbers of subsidences and accidents during the last three years;

(c) what were the nature of the sub-

sidences and accidents; and

(d) what action have been taken by ECL and DGMS to prevent similar occurrences?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) Instances of land subsidence have been reported from time to time in the Raniganj Coalfield over the last several years. The cause of subsidence of land is unscientific exploitation of coal during pre-nationalisation days.

Accidents in the mines are caused mostly by fall of roof, fall of sides, movement of trucks and dumpers, fall of persons and objects.

Details of subsidences and accidents in the Raniganj coalfield under the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. during the period 1986 to 1989 are given below:-

Year	No. of sidences	sub- No. of accidents	fatal No. of seri- ous accidents
1986	4	29	58
1987	5	29	95
1988	4	31	116
1989	2	28	107
(upto Oct. •89)			

The Eastern Coalfields Ltd. has stated that it has taken the following steps to prevent subsidence of land:

- (i) Mining operations are carried out in conformity with rules and regulations and as per conditions imposed by the Directorate General of Mines Safety;
- (ii) Extraction below built up areas is done only in conjunction with stowing;
- (iii) Restricted working/extraction is carried out in case of workings under shallow over;
- (iv) Construction activities over areas

declared unsafe for habitation have been prohibited;

- (v) Regular follow-up and liaison with the District authorities is maintained for evacuation of people from areas declared unsafe.

An action Plan for stabilisation of old and unapproachable underground voids in the Raniganj area has been prepared by the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and an amount of Rs. 15 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Department of Coal, Ministry of Energy for initial setting of the Project by the Coal India Ltd.

A Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines headed by the Union Energy Minister has been set up which reviews the status of safety in coal mines from time to time.

Provisions for safety, health and welfare of workers employed in Mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder. The Director General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad and his officers inspect the mines periodically in order to enforce the statutory provisions in respect of mines safety and take appropriate action as provided in the Mines Act, 1952 against the persons held responsible for accidents and for violating the provisions of the Act. The Director General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the mines management from time to time for adopting the safety measures.

Scheduled Tribes status to more Communities

514. SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that apart from the eight sections of the people in Ladakh Region who have been declared as Scheduled Tribes, the Jammu and Kashmir Government had recommended some more sections including Gujars, Bakarwals and Argarans for being