

essential supplies were sent to them from the early morning of November 14. A large diameter bore hole was drilled and 65 trapped persons were brought out in a capsule fabricated by the company by the morning of November 16. Search parties were sent subsequently through the bore hole to locate the remaining six persons but were unsuccessful. Following the dewatering of the working shaft, the bodies of these persons were recovered, the body of the sixth person being found on December 23, 1989.

2. Officials of the Directorate General of Mines Safety are conducting statutory inquiry into the accident. The Coal India Ltd. has also constituted a Committee of Experts to look into the circumstances of the accident and to suggest measures to prevent recurrence of such accidents.

Long-term Land Use Plan

466. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a long-term land use plan for the next 50 years or so, for the whole country, clearly earmaking specific areas for specific use, exists;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to prepare such a plan; if so, by when; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The responsibility for preparation of land use plans vests with the State Governments. Several State Governments have constituted State Land Use Boards for this purpose.

Extension of ESI facilities

467. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the E.S.I. facilities would be extended to any new section of workers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to extend the ESI Scheme to any new section of workers, as such. However, according to the phased programme for extension of the scheme drawn up by the ESI Corporation, in consultation with the State Government, the scheme is proposed to be extended to 50 new industrial centres covering about 84,000 workers in the existing coverable sections of workers during the current financial year.

Railway Safety Commissioner's Report on Peruman Railway tragedy

468. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee has started reviewing the report submitted by the Railway Safety Commissioner on Peruman Railway tragedy;

(b) if so, at what stage the process is at present;

(c) if the process is over, what are the findings; and

(d) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

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

(b) to (d). The Committee has held a number of sittings and is expected to submit its findings shortly.