

need to meet fully the power requirement of the national capital. Efforts are being made to increase the availability of power in Punjab and Haryana by supplying additional power from neighbouring States and Central projects.

Exploitation of Indian labourers in muscat

***312. SHRI KISHORE MEHTA:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:**

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that thousands of Indian labourers are being kept in confinement at Muscat since early June, 1984;

(b) whether it is a fact that they have been cheated in respect of salaries and other benefits promised by the recruiting firms and as a result of their resentment the Royal Police of the Sultanate of Oman has been threatening the labourers and extracting work from them under duress; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) About 107 Indian workers employed by M/s J & P Oman were detained on 8th June, 1984 by Oman Police because they had gone on strike which is not permissible under their Labour laws. On 13th June, 1984 they were repatriated to India.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The workers have not been cheated by the recruiting firm so far as their salaries and overtime are concerned. Their demand for annual passage to India has not been agreed to as per the conditions of employment contract.

Regarding their demands for adequate water supply, transport, medical facilities and cooling arrangements

these have been agree to.

We are not aware of Indian workers having been threatened by the Royal Police of the Sultanate of Oman.

The Embassy of India and the Government of Oman have played an active role in resolving this issue.

Recommendations of the Law Commission in the 103rd Report

***313. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the recommendations contained in the 103rd Report of the Law Commission about "unfair terms in contracts" entered into by large public and private sector undertakings which work to the disadvantage of individual customers;

(b) whether the Law Commission has also felt that the Indian Contract Act is inadequate in protecting consumer interests; and

(c) if so, whether there are any proposals to amend the Indian Contract Act so that 'unfair terms in contracts' cannot be inserted by big corporate undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL): (a) to (c) The Law Commission has forwarded to the Government its 103rd Report on 'Unfair Terms in Contract' on 28th July, 1984. The Report containing all the details and recommendations of the Commission would be laid before the Parliament as soon as the formalities like translating the same into Hindi and also getting copies thereof made in English and Hindi, are completed. The Report is under consideration of the Government.

Technical experts in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

***314. SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH:** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how many technical experts are working in his Ministry on the task of monitoring, examination of proposals for registrations industrial licences, imports, foreign collaboration, visits of plants and machinery and pricing of drugs and fertilizers;

(b) how many technical posts are lying vacant and since when;

(c) whether it is a fact that the basic requirement of certain posts of technical officers in drugs division of his Ministry is Ph.D. in Chemistry and if so, the number of officers having this qualification; and

(d) in how many such cases, relaxation of basic requirement have been made with names of posts and reasons for relaxations?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) In the Ministry and its two attached offices, there are 14 technical posts; of these, two posts are vacant, one from February, 1984 and another from June, 1982. Steps have been initiate to fill these vacancies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Purchase of plane and air conditioned cars by Coal India Limited

*315. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRIMATI RODA MISTRY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited proposes to purchase a new plane and a large number of air-conditioned luxurious cars from USA; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited has no proposal for the purchase of any car from the U.S.A. or any other foreign country.

The C.I.L. proposes to import a Beechcraft King Air F-90-1 aircraft from the U.S.A. to replace the old Beechcraft VT-CNY aircraft which is presently being used by it.

Transport of coal through Railways

*316. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target of the quantity of coal that was to be transported through Railways during the year 1983-84 and what was the quantity actually transported through Railways during the year;

(b) whether it is a fact that adequate number of wagons were not available for the movement of coal and if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the quantity of coal expected to be moved through Railways during 1984-85 and what is the number of wagons the Railways Ministry has agreed to allot for the purpose and the number of wagons required for the purpose throughout the year; and

(d) what efforts have been made to prevent stockpiling of coal at pitheads?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) For the year 1983-84, it had been assessed that at least 110 million tonnes would have to be moved by rail. As against this requirement the actual movement of coal by railways during 1983-84 was about 100 million tonnes.