

3. बहादुरगढ़ . 2000 लाइने

4. बादली . 1000 लाइने

Coal deposit in Giridih

79. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total estimated deposit of high class coking coal in the closed mines of Giridih and have the Coal India Ltd. any plan to work out that coal; and

(b) what would be the cost of production of such coal if worked out and what is the price of such coal if imported from other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Linking of Wages with Cost of Living

80. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons that the minimum wages fixed for the scheduled industries by the Government of India are not linked with cost of living index as is done by many State Governments as a result of which the Centrally fixed minimum wages are sometimes lower than those States; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to re-examine this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI DHARMAVIR): (a) and (b) The Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1980 recommended that minimum wages should be reviewed or revised once at

least in two years or on a rise of 50 points in the Consumer Price Index Numbers, whichever is earlier. In pursuance of this decision, minimum wages in respect of scheduled employments, including the employments in agriculture building and construction and mining employments for which Central Government is the appropriate Government, are being revised regularly. It has therefore not been considered necessary to introduce the Variable Dearness Allowance formula in respect of these employments.

Awarding LPG Agencies to Local Persons

81. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:
SHRI SUSHIL CHAND
MOHUNTA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a clause in the guidelines for the granting of LPG agencies that these should be awarded/granted to the persons of the locality where the point is located;

(b) if so, whether this has been adhered to; and

(c) if not, in how many cases these agencies have been given to the people who do not belong to the place where the point is located and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) According to the policy guidelines, preference could be given to the person of the town/area where the dealership/distributorship/agency is to be located subject to other things being equal in comparison to other candidates of the concerned Revenue District. It does not imply that only the local candidates should be awarded the agency strai-

ghtaway ignoring the merits of other candidates of the concerned District. However, in view of the slight ambiguity in the interpretation of this provision, this condition has now been deleted from the guidelines.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

Port and Dock Workers' Strike

82. **SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:**
SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:

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

(a) whether his Ministry had any role to play in the prolonged strike of the Port and Dock workers to safeguard the interest of the workers;

(b) if so, what are the details hereof; and

(c) what is the total number of mandays lost in this strike?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI DHARMA-IR): (a) and (b) As required under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, conciliation proceedings were held on receipt of the notices of the strike from the unions of Port and Dock Workers over a charter of demands. On 14-3-1984 an appeal was also made by the Union Minister for Labour and Rehabilitation to the representatives of the federations of the Port and Dock Workers to postpone the strike for a week to enable him to find a solution but this was not accepted by the representatives. The strike has since been called off.

(c) As per information received, the total number of mandays lost as a result of the strike in all the ports and the dock labour boards (excluding Calcutta Dock Labour Board) is provisionally estimated to be 4,56,614.

Modernisation of Telecommunication System

83. **SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state what steps are being taken to up-dating of technologies applicable to various parts of the network and production in processes of telecommunication system so as to achieve higher performance and greater economy offered by modernisation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): Broad outline of steps being taken to up-date the technologies in various parts of of the network are given below:

(a) Introduction of Electronic Switching especially the digital electronic type for telephone exchanges in place of the electro-mechanical type which is now produced in the country.

(b) Introduction of an improved version of telephone instrument.

(c) Introduction of electronic type of telex exchanges.

(d) Introduction of digital type of junction equipment for inter-exchange working in urban areas.

(e) Introduction of long distance equipment using digital technology.

(f) Introduction of data communication over public switched telephone network.

(g) Introduction of store and forward type of electronic system in the Telegraph network.

(h) Introduction of multi access radio systems in rural areas for opening of long distance public telephones instead of by the conventional overhead lines.

(j) Use of satellite circuits for interconnection of remote and inaccessible areas as also between large cities.