

Participation of women workers in the mining industry

49. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that participation of women workers in the mining industry has considerably declined;

(b) if so, what were the reasons which led to the reduction of the women workers; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) A study of trend of participation by women workers in the mining industry for the period 1941-75, conducted by the Labour Bureau, has revealed that there had been a steady decline till 1972 and a slight increase in the employment of women was recorded thereafter.

(b) According to the study, the decline in women's employment during the years 1941-72 was due to several factors such as, prohibition on underground work, introduction of labour-saving devices or, technological improvements in methods of production, rise in the wage rates of women and extra burden on the employers on account of statutory requirements of provisions concerning women workers.

(c) The Government is keeping a careful watch over the trend.

Work force engaged in the mining industry

50. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study on the work-force engaged in the country's mining industry; and

(b) if so, the salient points of such study?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR

(SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b) No work force study as such has been conducted in the mining industry. Surveys have been conducted at various points of time on working conditions in coal mines, iron ore mines, gold mines, mica mines, lime stone mines, manganese mines etc.

Price of steel bars and rods in Delhi

51. SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA:

DR. V. P. DUTT:

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the price of steel bars and rods used in building construction is very high in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The prices of the products of the integrated steel plants for all categories of steel including bars and rods, are the same throughout the country when sold through their stockyards. The open market prices of steel vary from place to place and time to time depending upon the forces of demand and supply. The production of bars and rods from the main producers of the total production in this country is only about 25 per cent and the balance comes from mini steel plants and rerollers. Hence prices of bars and rods in the open market depend a great deal on the availability from the producers other than main producers. It is true that prices of this category of material in the open market is higher than the stockyard prices. In order to augment indigenous availability several measures have already been taken. Export of billets, bars and rods have been drastically reduced. Arrangements have also been made for the import of 1 lakh tonnes of MS billets, of which over 70,000 tonnes have already arrived and have been given to priority consumers