

adjudicating upon claims for such compensation. Some proposals for the amendment of the Act, including the recommendations made by the Law Commission for payment of compensation where persons liable to pay the compensation run away after the accidents or their whereabouts cannot be ascertained are being considered by the Ministry of Shipping and Transport.

Bursting of Harduaganj power plant

1174. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a turbine of the Harduaganj power plant near Aligarh, costing over Rs. 10 crores burst on the 20th November, 1977;

(b) whether any experts' team has been appointed to investigate into the incident; and

(c) if so, what are the details regarding the findings of the team in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board has set up an enquiry committee to investigate into the incident. The Committee has not submitted its report as yet.

Procedure for redressal of grievances in the Central Government Ministries/Department

1175. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

SHRIMATI SARASWATI PRADHAN:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKARADIVAREKAR:

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the functions which were assigned to the

Staff Councils, in various Central Government Ministries/Departments, with a view to mitigating the grievances of the staff, prior to Emergency;

(b) what is the present position regarding the grievances redressal procedure, as suggested by the Administrative Reforms Commission, in various Central Government Ministries/Departments;

(c) whether it is a fact that these Councils have since been abolished/replaced by other staff-administration consultation machinery; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to activate the grievances redressal machinery in the Ministries/Departments particularly in the Ministries/Departments where the Staff Councils are not functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) The object of establishing the Staff Councils was to secure the greatest measure of cooperation between the Government and its employees and increased efficiency in the public service combined with the welfare of the employees. The Councils could deliberate on—

(i) conditions under which the members of the staff are required to work;

(ii) general principles regulating conditions of service;

(iii) welfare of the members of staff; and

(iv) improvement of efficiency and standards of work.

The Staff Councils were advisory in nature. The discussions relating to

conditions of service were limited to general principles and individual cases were excluded from discussion.

(b) A statement showing the action taken on the various recommendations of the A.R. Commission has already been laid on the Table of the House on the 18th November, 1977 in fulfilment of the assurance given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 543 by late Shri Prakash Veer Shastri, M.P. on the 23rd June, 1977.

(c) In pursuance of a decision of the National Council (JCM), Government issued instructions in July, 1967, that the Staff Councils would be abolished as soon as Regional/Office Councils under the JCM Scheme started functioning.

(d) In October, 1966, Government introduced a Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration for Central Government Employees, with the object of promoting harmonious relations and of securing the greatest measure of Co-operation between Government and the general body of its employees. The Scheme provides for Joint Councils at three tiers; a National Council at the national level covering generally all employees of Central Government; Departmental Councils at the level of the Ministries/Departments including the employees of their Attached and Subordinate offices; and Office/Regional Councils for individual offices, for discussions and consultations with the representatives of the staff on matters of common concern coming within the purview of the Scheme. The scope of the Joint Councils includes all matters relating to conditions of work and service, welfare of employees, improvement of efficiency and standards of work, provided, however, that (i) in regard to recruitment, promotion and discipline, consultation will be limited to matters of general principles and (ii) individual cases will not be covered. This Scheme continues to be operative.

Mismanagement and loss of production in textile mills

1176. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is mismanagement and loss of production in the five mills owned by the Swadeshi Cotton Mills Co. Ltd. at Kanpur, Naini, Pondicherry, Maunath-bhajan and Rae Bareli;

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

(c) whether Government are contemplating to take over these mills;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b) There had been reports on the deterioration in the working of the cotton textile mills under the management of Swadeshi Cotton Mills Co. A techno-economic survey has been completed by the officers of the Textile Commissioner and the survey report has just been received. A preliminary study of the report shows that the mills have been suffering losses for a variety of reasons and there has been a fall in production. There has been an internal dissension in the management also.

(c) to (e) Any remedial action would require thorough study of the survey reports. However, since NTC is already shouldering a heavy responsibility of managing 105 cotton textile mills. Central Government is not in favour of taking over more mills for management by this Corporation. If any viable proposition emerges for the mills being managed by the State Government, the Central Government would render legal and administrative assistance.