

(e) Regular checks are carried out about the functioning of the service with a view to improving it further. There is no immediate proposal to extend the said service.

Grant of licences for mining leases

457. SHRI L. R. NAIK:

SHRI SATCHIDANANDA:

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

(a) what are the names of the persons from Karnataka whose revision petitions against orders of the State Government refusing grant of prospective licences for mining leases, are pending with the Central Government;

(b) what are the dates (i) of receipt of the revision petitions by the Central Government; (ii) on which comments of the State Government were sought for; and (iii) on which comments have been received and what are the reasons for keeping each of these cases pending; and

(c) what steps the Central Government have taken for an early disposal of these revision petitions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) and (b) The information is given in the Annexure.

[See Appendix CVI, Annexure No. 40].

(c) It will be seen that necessary reminders are being issued when there are delays in receipt of comments. In suitable cases, orders are also passed without waiting for comments etc., if these are unduly delayed. In short an effort is made to dispose of the applications as early as possible subject to compliance with the provisions of the relevant rules.

Payment of bonus to workers

458. SHRI BHABANI CHARAN PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a letter from the General Secretary of the AITUC urging Government to take urgent steps to ensure payment of bonus to the workers at the rate of 8.33 per cent for the accounting year commencing in 1977; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In his letter the General Secretary, A.I.T.U.C. has requested for an early amendment of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 to continue minimum bonus of 8.33 per cent and for certain other matters. A decision is yet to be taken.

Frustration among job seekers

459. SHRI BHABANI CHARAN PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports of widespread frustration among the job-seekers because of their inability to secure employment through the employment exchanges in spite of waiting for years; and

(b) what is the outcome of the employment generating schemes initiated by Government during the last year and so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) Government are aware of the seriousness of the unemployment situation prevailing in the country.

(b) Government have already formulated a Draft Five Year Plan (1978-83) with a high employment content. Further, priority was given to the development of employment intensive sectors like agriculture, agro-industries, small scale and cot-