

**Report of Enquiry Committee on Mine accidents**

\*298. SHRI SHRI KANT VERMA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the reports of the Courts of Enquiry set up to enquire into the Chaonala, Sudamidh, Kesargarh Mine accidents;

(b) if so, what are the major recommendations contained therein; and

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations; if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Apart from determining the causes and responsibility for the accidents, the Courts of Enquiry have made certain recommendations. A statement of the main recommendations contained in the Reports is laid on the Table of the House. (See below)

(c) The recommendations made by the Courts of Enquiry are under consideration of the Government.

**Statement**

(1) The main recommendation made by the Court of Enquiry for accident in Chasnala Colliery on 27-12-1975 relates to the amendment of Regulation 127 of the Coal Mines Regulation, 1957.

(2) Some of the main recommendations made by the Court of Enquiry for the accident in Kessurghar Colliery are as follow:—

(a) It must be clearly laid down that the primary responsibility for safety in the Mines is that of the management concerned.

(b) It should be for the management to prove that all possible pre-

cautions, whether or not they were required by the Directorate General of Mines Safety, were taken, and that the practices followed were justifiable on their own merits.

(c) The Director General of Mines Safety should not only consider but record in writing that they have taken into account the effect of such orders on production and cost, but have nevertheless passed the order because in their opinion safety consideration should over-ride in these cases all other considerations.

(d) Apart from the regulatory and penal powers of the Mines Safety Department, an important role which they should play is that of advisers and consultants.

(e) The role of the Safety Unit in Colliery Management needs to be redefined. The Safety Officer should not be under the administrative control of the Colliery Manager, but should be a part of a separate hierarchy, the Head of which should report to the Technical Director on the Board of Directors, if there is such a Director, or to the Chief Executive of the Organisation.

(f) The Enquiry reports on fatal accidents, as well as general reports by safety officers or by DGMS on standards of safety followed in the Collieries should not only be made available to the Pit Safety Committees, but actively discussed in detail at their meetings.

(g) A nominee of the Union, or where there are more than one union in a colliery, of the union having the largest membership should be associated with the Internal Safety Wing during their inspections. Further the Safety Officer attached to a colliery should, accompanied by the nominee of the Union, inspect all the mines in the colliery once every month.

(3) Main recommendations made by the Court of Enquiry for the accident in Sudamdih Colliery are as follows:-

1. Adequate number of methano-meter and flame safety lamps should be kept in stock.

2. During each holiday in a Degree III gassy mine a surprise visit for an underground inspection in each shift should be made by an Under Manager.

3. Whenever a Degree II gassy mine is closed for a holiday, an officer should make a thorough check of all parts of the mine for accumulation of gas.

4. A Degree III gassy mine should be thoroughly inspected at least once in every six months.

5. Freshly recruited Assistant Managers should be given training for two months in the DGMS.

### जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में टेलीफोन तथा डाक की सुविधायें

\*299. श्री देवराव पाटील : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने चालू वर्ष के दौरान देश के जनजातीय क्षेत्रों, विशेष रूप से जनजातीय विकास खण्डों में टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज तथा डाकघर खोलने के लिए कोई योजना बनाई है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका राज्यशः व्यौरा क्या है ?

### Telephone and postal facilities in tribal areas

\*299. SHRI DEORAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a scheme for opening telephone exchanges and post offices in the tribal areas especially in Tribal Development Blocks in the country during the current year; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard, State-wise?]

संचार मंत्री (श्री जार्ज फर्नेन्डो) ।

(क) और (ख) सरकार ने पिछड़े और पहाड़ी इलाकों में डाक, तार और टेलीफोन की सुविधाएं देने के लिए एक उदार नीति अपनाई है। इनमें अधिकांश जनजाति क्षेत्र भी शामिल हैं। पिछड़े इलाकों में यदि वार्षिक आवर्ती व्यय का कम से कम 15 प्रतिशत राजस्व के रूप में अर्जित होता हो तो वहां ये सुविधाएं दे दी जाती हैं। पहाड़ी इलाकों में यह सीमा आगे और भी घटा कर 10 प्रतिशत कर दी गई है।

वर्ष 1974 से 1976 के दौरान विभिन्न राज्यों में जनजाति क्षेत्रों के विकास के लिए कतिपय अध्ययन किए गए थे। डाक-तार यूनिटों के अध्यक्षों को यह सलाह दी गई थी कि वे उपर्युक्त उदारीकृत नीति के अन्तर्गत जनजाति क्षेत्रों में डाक, तार और टेलीफोन की सुविधाएं देने में उचित प्राथमिकता दे सकते हैं। इस वर्ष पिछड़े और पहाड़ी इलाकों में खोले जाने वाले 885 डाकघरों में से अधिकांश डाकघर जनजाति क्षेत्रों में स्थित होंगे। इस वर्ष जनजाति क्षेत्रों में 44 टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज खोलने का कार्यक्रम है।

[THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Government has adopted a liberal policy for providing postal, telegraph and telephone facilities in backward and hilly areas which include most of the tribal areas. In backward areas, these facilities are provided if at least 15% of the annual recurring expenditure is earned as revenue. In hilly areas, this limit is further reduced to 10% .

Certain studies were undertaken during 1974 to 1976 for development of tribal areas in various States. The Heads of P&T Units were advised that they may give suitable priority for provision of postal, telegraph and telephone facilities in tribal areas within the above-mentioned liberalised policy. Majority of the 885 post offices scheduled to be opened this year in backward and hilly areas