

Danger to Jharia township due to underground colliery fires

*203. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI OMPRAKASH TYAGI :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that the entire Jharia township and the adjoining villages with a population of one million are in peril due to underground colliery fires; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to avert the disaster ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) A report on this subject published in the newspapers has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Safety measures stipulated by the Director General of Mines Safety in regard to workings of mines in Jharia are complied with. The Government has also appointed a Committee to look into the safety aspects of mines including dangers posed by fires.

Pension of Freedom Fighters

*204. DR. Z. A. AHMAD :
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of freedom fighters who are drawing a monthly pension of Rs. 200 or less, between Rs. 201 and Rs. 300 and more than Rs. 400 separately ;

(b) whether Government propose to enhance the monthly pension of those persons who are drawing Rs. 200 per month or less; and

(c) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI

F. H. MOHSIN) : (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) No Sir, Higher pension (i.e. more than minimum of Rs. 200/- p.m.) is being sanctioned in individual cases on merits keeping in view the period of imprisonment, financial condition, age, health, number of dependents, liabilities etc.

Statement

Number of freedom fighters who are drawing monthly pension of Rs. 200/- or less.	1,11,828
Between Rs. 201 and Rs. 300	276*
More than Rs. 400	11

*Includes cases where both husband and wife are freedom fighters and have been sanctioned combined pension.

हिन्दुस्तान एयरोनाटिक्स लिमिटेड द्वारा जनता हवाई जहाजों का निर्माण

*205. श्री ओजस प्रकाश त्यागी : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिन्दुस्तान एयरोनाटिक्स लिमिटेड, बंगलौर ने बीस सीट वाले जनता हवाई जहाज बनाने की योजना बनाई है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार ने योजना को स्वीकृति दे दी है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने योजना के आर्थिक पहलू पर विचार कर लिया है; और

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो इस सम्बन्ध में व्यय क्या है ?

†[Manufacture of Janata aeroplanes by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

*205. SHRI OMPRAKASH TYAGI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Bangalore, have formulated a scheme for manufacturing janata aeroplanes with a capacity of 20 seats;

†[] English translation.

(b) if so, whether Government have approved the scheme;

(c) whether Government have considered the economic aspect of the scheme; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard ?]

रक्षा मंत्रालय (रक्षा उत्पादन) में राज्य मंत्री (श्री विठ्ठल गाडगील) : (क) जी नहीं। तथापि, एक छोटे यात्री विमान का निर्माण करने के प्रश्न की जांच करने के लिए रक्षा मंत्रालय द्वारा एक अध्ययन दल नियुक्त किया गया है। दल की रिपोर्ट अभी प्रस्तुत की जानी है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VITHAL GADGIL) : (a) No, Sir. However, a study group has been appointed by the Ministry of Defence to examine the question of manufacturing a small passenger aircraft. The report of the group is yet to be submitted.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.]

Welfare of Backward Classes

*206. SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :

SHRI B. RACHAIAH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the amount earmarked under the State Sector Programme and the Integrated Tribal Development Programme separately for the education and economic development of the backward classes for the year 1976-77 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA) : An amount of Rs. 39.49 crores has been earmarked for the welfare of backward classes under the State Sector Programme for 1976-77. Of this, about 40 per cent (Rs. 15.79 crores) would be spent on educational programmes and 30 per cent (Rs. 11.85 crores) on economic

†[] English Translation.

development programmes. A provision of Rs. 40 crores has been made for integrated tribal development programme. The programme is for the economic development of the Scheduled Tribes.

Take over of Bengal Potteries, West Bengal

*207. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :

DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 550 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th May, 1976 and state :

(a) whether the Central Government have accorded their approval for taking over M/s. Bengal Potteries, West Bengal; and

(b) if not, what is the progress so far made in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) and (b) The investigation Committee set up by the Government under Section 15A of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 to report on the affairs of M/s. Bengal Potteries, has submitted its report. The findings of the Committee are being examined in consultation with the Government of West Bengal.

Watch Factory in Darjeeling

*208. DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI :

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURA GOHAIN :

SHRI KRISHNA BAHADUR CHEITRI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for setting up a watch factory in Darjeeling; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?