

A small component of rural works was also included to generate wage employment, the works being such that they support the other main programmes in the local area like link roads to markets, godowns, community irrigation works, etc. An outlay of Rs. 25 lakhs in MFAL, Parbhani and Rs. 5 lakhs in MFAL, Ratnagiri Satara has been provided for rural works programme for the five year Project Period ending 1975-76. 1400 participants in the Project area of MFAL. Parbhani have been benefited under the rural works Programme upto September, 1974 from wage employment. In MFAL Project area of Ratnagiri—Satara, no benefit to the agricultural labourers has been given under the rural works programme so far.

The agricultural labourers are also covered under animal husbandry programmes like dairy, poultry etc. However, the number of such beneficiaries is not known. Agricultural labourers are also expected to benefit from intensive agriculture indirectly, as such employment would provide fuller employment to them. The number of agricultural labourers actually benefited under these programmes is not known.

Agriculture is a scheduled employment under Minimum Wages Act, 1948. Under this Act the appropriate Government fixes the wage rates of different categories of agricultural labourers from time to time.

Discharge of Railway Workers for Participating in May Strike

1825. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 22 Railway workers of the Farnkka IOW under (Con.) were discharged from service for joining the May strike ;

(b) whether Government propose to reinstate the discharged workers ; and

(c) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor ?

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THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House after it is received.

Sale of Steel in Black Market

1826. SHRI J. S. ANAND: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that steel trading company located at 4045, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi, has been found selling steel in black market ; and

(b) whether Government have made verification of the stock of the company and if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b) M/s. Steel Trading Co., 4045, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi, are understood to be steel traders and as such are engaged in the business of buying and selling of steel. No irregularity committed by them has come to notice so far.

1827. [Transferred to the 19th December, 1974.]

Sale of Steel by Hindustan Steel Ltd.

1828. SHRI J. S. ANAND : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hindustan Steel Ltd., has sold in 1973 steel to Excunor Plants Ltd., New Delhi, under J.P.C. quota ;

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

(c) the purpose for which the quota was sanctioned ;

(d) whether Government are aware that this quota never reached the factory premises and was disposed of in the open market ;

(e) if so, whether any investigation has been made ; and

(f) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard ?