

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) The question of restructuring Hindustan Steel Limited in the context of the establishment of Steel Authority of India Ltd. is still under examination. A decision in the matter is likely to be taken in the near future.

(b) Does not arise.

Protection of wages of workers

*138. SHRI RISHI KUMAR MISHRA:

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what were the wages in various important industries, particularly textile, cement, steel, plantation, jute, railways, mines, banks, life insurance, general insurance, P & T, during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that the real wages of the workers do not decline in view of the price rise; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in case of unorganised workers, who do not get the benefit of their dearness allowance being linked to the cost of living index?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) The information is being collected.

(b) Wages are being determined increasingly through Bi-partite agreements and they usually cover the question of suitable D.A. Schemes to protect erosion of real wages.

(c) Such workers are largely covered by the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, which provides for revision of wages after suitable intervals. The revisions take into account the changes in cost of living.

Central Wage Board for Coal Mines Industry

*139. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Coal Mines Industry are being implemented in all coal mines;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) from which date these recommendations are implemented in the mines under the Coal Mining Authority Limited?'

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) From the dates of take-over of the management of coal mines by the Government, the recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Coal Mines Industry, as accepted by the Government, are being implemented in all the nationalised coal mines as well as the captive mines of the private sector steel plants.

Increase in accidents in mines

*140. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:

SHRI MONORANIAN ROY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of accidents in mines is going up every year;

(b) if so, what safety measures have been taken by Government to lessen the incidence of accidents?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) Incidence of fatal accidents and resultant casualties has been fairly steady for the past four years at a level lower than that existing in earlier years, except that in 1973, the unusually large number of casualties in one accident at litpur Colliery had upset the position regarding the total number of deaths.

The incidence of serious accidents has shown a downward trend for over a decade ending in 1972. In 1973, there was an unusually high incidence of serious accidents in mines, mostly in coal mines.

(b) Improving safety measures in mines is a continuous process. Steps are being taken to tighten supervision, arrange training programmes in safety measures, ob-