

NATIONALISATION OF SUGAR FACTORIES

*133. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE/कृषि मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sixth Indian Cooperative Congress held in Delhi on April 10 recommended to Government that the inefficiently run private sugar factories under the cooperative sector should be handed over to Growers' Cooperative instead of being nationalised;

(b) how many sugar factories were being inefficiently run in the cooperative sector; and

(c) the reactions of Government to this suggestion?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE/कृषि मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) There is no private sugar factory under the cooperative sector which could be handed over to Growers' cooperatives. All cooperative sugar factories are organisations of sugar cane growers. The draft resolution of the Sixth Indian Cooperative Congress is : "The Congress recommends that such private sugar factories which are not running efficiently should be cooperativised instead of being nationalised and be handed over to growers' cooperatives. Compensation may be given in the form of bonds redeemable over a reasonable period of time."

(b) By and large, cooperative sugar factories are functioning satisfactorily. However, as on 30th June, 1970, of the 69 cooperative sugar factories to which the Industrial Finance Corporation had sanctioned

loans, only 5 cooperatives defaulted in payment of interest and/or repayment of instalment of principal.

(c) The Government of India have already appointed a Commission of Enquiry to study the various aspects of the sugar industry including the progress and working of sugar mills in the cooperative sector, and to suggest a rational and efficient organisation of the sugar industry in different parts of the country as also measures for solving the problem of sick sugar mills in the context of the demand for nationalisation of the sugar industry.

*134. [Transferred to the 2nd June, 1971]

REHABILITATION OF RIOT AFFECTED MUSLIMS OF H.E.C., RANCHI

*135. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the riot affected Muslim employees of the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, have since been rehabilitated; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay in setting these employees and the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES/इस्पात और खान मंत्री (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM) : (a) About 500 muslim employees who were affected in the riots in August, 1967 were temporarily accommodated in two hostels of the company. 61 of these returned in 1970 to the quarters allotted to them in the township of the company. Out of these, 26 have since surrendered the quarters and made their own arrangements.

(b) This is a delicate social problem requiring the willing cooperation of all concerned and will take some more time. Earnest efforts in this regard are being continued.

SALARY DRAWN BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

*136. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/श्रम और पुनर्वास मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to "News item" published in the Hindustan Times, dated April 14, 1971 on page 5 to the effect that majority of Government employees draw less than Rs. 100 per month; and

(b) if so, what is the real position of this matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/श्रम और पुनर्वास मंत्री (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR)

(a) Yes, the news item, in fact, appeared on April 16, 1971.

(b) According to the Census of Central Government employees about 51 per cent of regular employees were drawing a basic pay of less than Rs. 100 per month.

ACCUMULATION OF PIT-HEAD STOCKS IN COALFIELDS OF BIHAR

*137. SHRI SUNDER MANI PATEL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that the pit-head stocks of coal in the coal-fields of Bihar have accumulated to the extent of 4.9 million tonnes due to non-availability of railway wagons and that about 125 coalfields are facing closures; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to clear the pit-head stocks and to save the coalfields from closure?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES/इस्पात और खान मंत्री (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM):

(a) Yes, Sir. However no report that any colliery has closed down on account of shortage of railway wagons has been received.

(b) The shortage in the railway wagon supply is mainly due to large scale thefts of overhead wires, wagon parts, signalling and other equipment in the Bengal/Bihar area as a result of the deteriorating law and order conditions there. The Government of India is fully aware of the position and is taking steps in consultation with the State Governments to improve the law and order situation and restore normalcy in the Railway operations.

SET BACK IN STEEL PRODUCTION

*138. SHRI M.K. MOHTA :
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel production have suffered a set back during 1970-71 so much so that as against the target of 5.48 million tonnes and rated capacity of 6.73 million tons, only 4.5 million tonnes of steel was produced;

(b) whether a high level meeting was held recently with the representatives of the Industry and the various unions to find out the reasons for the set back and to devise ways and means to run the plants at full capacity; and

(c) if so, the out-come thereof and the steps taken in this regard?