

(a) whether it is a fact that the Advisory Board on Correctional Services has made some recommendations to Government in regard to amendment of the Probation of Offenders Act and the Penal Code ; and

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations, and what is Government's decision thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The question of amendment of Probation of Offenders Act has been discussed at length by the Central Advisory Board on Correctional Services as well as the earlier All India Seminar on Correctional Services. The Central Advisory Board has also recommended general revision of the Indian Penal Code. The specific recommendations on the above two aspects are as under : (i) Section 4 of the Act might be amended so as to make it obligatory for the court to call for the report of probation officers and to facilitate adjournment of the case for a maximum period of one month to await the report in deserving cases.

(ii) Section 6 of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, should be amended so as to make it obligatory on court to obtain preliminary enquiry reports in all cases of first offenders.

(iii) It has been recommended that steps should be taken to get the Indian Penal Code

revised on the lines of modern reformation ideas.

The recommendations are being examined in so far as the amendment to the Indian Penal Code is concerned. The question relating to amendment of Probation of Offenders Act as recommended above, has been considered and as per advice of the Ministry of Law, circulated to the State Governments to elicit their views.

ELIMINATION OF WASTEFUL UTILISATION OF COAL

256. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : DR. B. N.

ANTANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of coal (in tonnage) which was purchased by the railways in each of the last three financial years, and what was the average price per tonne of coal;

(b) the quantity of coal that was actually consumed by the railways in each of the last three financial years, and what was the average mileage obtained per tonne of coal; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to eliminate wasteful utilisation of coal, and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) to (c) The information is given in the statement enclosed.

(a) Quantity of coal purchased and average price per tonne.

Year	Quantity in million tonnes	Average pit-head price per tonne in Rs.
1967-68	17.61	30.63
1968-69	16.58	34.17
1969-70	16.81	35.18

(b) Quantity of coal consumed and the average kilometrage obtained per tonne of coal consumed (Kilometrage is given in place of mileage as figures are compiled in metric units)

Year	Quantity of coal consumed in million tonnes	Engine Kilometres obtained per tonne of coal consumed					
		Broad Gauge			Metre Gauge		
		Passenger	Goods	Shunting	Passenger	Goods	Shunting
1967-68	16.90	29.9	16.1	28.6	46.1	27.0	50.5
1968-69	16.28	30.5	16.3	28.8	46.3	27.8	51.0
1969-70	16.08	30.0	16.4	29.1	45.7	27.5	51.3

(c) Steps taken to eliminate wasteful utilisation

Fuel economy receives close attention on the Railways. Efforts are constantly made with the help of the fuel control organisation on zonal railways to eliminate wasteful use of coal in locomotives and on line to achieve economy. Training is imparted to the staff in fuel economy measures and attention is paid to proper maintenance of locomotives.

Trip rations of coal are fixed by properly conducted trials from time to time and the actual consumption is closely watched. Officers and Fuel Inspectors travel on foot plates of engines to watch the performance of the staff and give them proper guidance where necessary.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION LAGGING BEHIND TARGETS

257. DR. Z. A. AHMAD :
SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the overall industrial production continues to lag behind targets;

(b) what are the sectors in which production is lagging behind targets ;

(c) what are the reasons for the unsatisfactory performance of industries in these sectors ;

(d) whether any steps are being taken to step up the production ; and

(e) whether the Fourth Plan targets for industries are likely to be achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) to (e) A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Against the growth rate envisaged in the Fourth Plan of 1 to 10 per cent annually, the existing production indices indicate a 6% rate

of growth in industrial production during 1970. Decline in production has taken place in certain industries, the most significant of which are : finished steel, steel manufactures, fertilizers, sulphuric acid, power driven pumps, diesel engines, commercial vehicles and jute textiles. This has occurred owing to various factors and circumstances. One major contributory factor has been the substantial decline in the expected output of steel which has affected a large number of steel using industries very adversely. Labour management problems in certain industrial units have also led to a stagnation or even decline in the output of a few industries. In certain other industries, production was low because of fall in demand.

The entire policy of Government is geared to the need for accelerating the rate of industrial growth, consistent with the achievement of the broader socio-economic objectives. The principal steps taken by the Government are reflected in the revision of the licensing policy announced last year with its emphasis on liberalisation and creation of additional capacity in most production sectors, particularly in the core sector, as also the policy to foster and accelerate the growth of small-scale industries which continue to have great growth potential. Action has also been taken to ensure adequate supplies of essential raw material and components to industries so that existing installed capacity is utilised more fully.

It is expected that with the measures already taken and further streamlining of the procedure that would be considered shortly, and with improved investment climate in the country, the targets for industrial development laid down in the Fourth Plan would be achieved in the coming years.

STATEMENT BY CHAIRMAN OF RAILWAY BOARD ON RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' STRIKE

258. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a strike at Dhanbad by the Railway Employees which completely paralysed the machinery for clearance of coal from the coal-beds ;