

the State should be invested in that State. Such a policy could lead to a situation where the needs of backward areas as well as genuine requirements for productive purposes of the more industrialised States are neglected to the grave detriment of the community while funds in certain States remain unutilised for lack of demand.]

**OUTBREAKS OF CHOLERA IN
RANIGANJ AND ASANSOL AREAS**

*596. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of a serious outbreak of Cholera in and around Raniganj and Asansol towns in the sub-division;

(b) if so, the causes of this outbreak and how many persons died in villages and in coal mines in the area;

(c) whether this outbreak of Cholera is also due to the serious negligence of the Asansol Mines Board of Health and also shortage of water in the area; and

(d) whether the Government propose to set up a committee to investigate into the causes of this outbreak of Cholera and take suitable action to prevent its recurrence?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SAHA): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) and (c) The outbreak of cholera may be due to the shortage of portable water on account of protracted drought conditions in the area; this year, 46 deaths have been reported in Raniganj Municipal area, 18 in Asansol Municipal area and 2 in Asansol Mini Hoard area. Government have no information about any negligence on the part of the Asansol Mines Board of Health.

(d) There is a proposal to set up an enquiry committee in the matter. All possible steps are being taken by the State Government to prevent recurrence of the epidemic. Arrangements have been made to supply drinking water in trucks, and for disinfection of water sources by partial application of bleaching powder. Inoculations have been performed both in the Raniganj and Asansol Municipal areas.

GRIEVANCES OF N.C.D.C. EMPLOYEES

*597. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state

(a) whether there are long standing grievances of the employees and workers of National Coal Development Corporation:

(b) if so, the nature of the grievances;

(c) whether there is any joint consultative machinery to settle outstanding disputes between the management and workers;

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative whether Government propose to set up any such machinery; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major grievances are:

(i) Implementation of those recommendations of the Central Wage Board for coal industry, which have not been accepted by the Central Government,

(ii) grant of higher pay scales for employees even far above those recommended by the Central Wage Board for coal industry and upward revision of pay scales of most of the posts,

(iii) promotion of employees to higher posts after they have put in some years of service in that post regardless of the requirement of personnel in higher categories or the merits and qualifications of the candidates,

(iv) preference in the matter of employment to the children of employees,

(v) introduction of family pension scheme,

(vi) provision of rent free accommodation

to the employees,

(vii) reimbursement of full medical expenses for treatment taken even from private medical practitioners.

(c) A grievance procedure has been existing in the Corporation for settling outstanding disputes with workers.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

विदर्भ क्षेत्र में राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों में जमा राशि

*598. श्री ना० कृ० शेखरकर : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) महाराष्ट्र के विदर्भ क्षेत्र के आठ जिलों में 1 फरवरी, 1970 को स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया और अन्य राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों में कितनी-कितनी राशि जमा थी ; और