

explosives in the order of 33,000 tonnes and the present shortage works out to about 5,000 tonnes, which is mainly due to inadequacy of manufacturing capacity at present. In order to meet the deficit, arrangements have been made to import 1,500 tonnes of explosives of non-permissible variety from Poland. Besides, an additional amount of Rs. 50 lakhs has also been released by the Government to the State Trading Corporation of India to import a further quantity of 1,500 tonnes of explosives. Out of this, Rs. 12 lakh will be utilised to import 1,000 tonnes of ammonium nitrate and the balance of Rs. 38 lakhs for importing 1,000 tonnes of non-permissible explosives.

The situation deteriorated recently on account of the lightning strike from 1st to 13th August, 1970, in the Indian Explosives Factory at Gomia, on account of which a large number of workers were reported to have been laid off in Bengal/Bihar coalfields and that several coal mining units stopped working.

Both short-term and long-term measures are being taken to eliminate, in future, shortage of explosives in the mining industry. It is proposed to import the deficit quantity and also to create a buffer stock at a number of places. The study of the feasibility of setting up of an explosives factory in the public sector is being taken up.

STRIKE BY EMPLOYEES OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA, CALCUTTA

1346. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL* SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Geological Survey of India in Calcutta are on a work-to-rule strike for the last two weeks;

(b) if so, what are their demands;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 42 striking employees have been suspended by the Director General of Geological Survey of India without an investigation or giving charge sheets;

(d) if so, the reasons for the same;

(e) whether Government have taken any action for consideration of the demands of the workers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) 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) A small group of Geological Survey of

India Staff in Calcutta, reported to belong to an unrecognised staff-body named Geological Survey of India Staff Union and purporting to be on work-to-rule strike, virtually abstained from work from 11-6-70 to 18-7-1970.

(b) The demands are—

(i) Immediate payment of honorarium to Drivers upto May, 1970;

(ii) Cancellation of orders of transfer of one Telephone Operator from one office in one building to another in Calcutta;

(iii) Declaration of stoppage of vindictive action against any Geological Survey of India Staff Union Office bearers;

(iv) Cancellation of order of transfer of one Assistant and another Store Keeper (Technical) from Calcutta to out-station offices of the Geological Survey of India;

(v) Exclusion of Draftsman Grade I cadre (Rs. 150—240) from the norm of inter-regional transfer.

(c) Forty-four employees had to be suspended. This was done after proper show cause notice followed by charge-sheets.

(d) The striking employees neglected their duties and indulged in lawless activities including criminal obstruction, intimidation and extreme acts of indiscipline.

(e) to (g) The strike has been called off on the basis of a compromise arrived at. The striking employees have expressed regret for their activities and have resumed work. Director General, Geological Survey of India has consequently withdrawn suspension orders. The demands of the employees are being examined by Government.

पेट्रोल तथा रसायन और खान तथा धातु विभाग में तकनीकी तथा गैर-तकनीकी कर्मचारी

1347. श्री राम सहाय : क्या पेट्रोल तथा रसायन और खान तथा धातु मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पेट्रोल तथा रसायन और खान तथा धातु विभाग में तकनीकी और गैर-तकनीकी कर्मचारियों का कोई अन्याय है, यदि हां, तो वह अन्याय क्या है ;

(ख) क्या उनके मंत्रालय को इस आशय की कोई शिकायत प्राप्त हुई है कि इन विभागों में गैर तकनीकी कर्मचारियों की संख्या आवश्यकता से अधिक है ; और