

Member is that tapping, as a rule, is not done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

RATION SHOPS IN DELHI

*122. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to convert the ration shops in Delhi into fair price shops;

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether similar advice has been given to the States to convert ration shops into fair price shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) Since the commencement of open market sale of indigenous wheat and rice, ration shops in Delhi have become more or less fair price shops, though statutory rationing has not formally been ended so far. These relaxations represent, the approach of the Government in the context of an improving food position.

(c) No, Sir. However, the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have converted statutory rationing into informal rationing in the rationed areas of Kanpur, Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Siliguri respectively.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir whether any decision has been taken so far or not, whether the ration shops in Delhi will be continued, whether the rationing will be continued or it will be lifted, and if the decision is in the negative, is to the effect that ration shops are no more required, will the Government consider the desirability of opening some fair price shops where the poorer classes of society can get their foodgrain supplies at cheaper rates?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, the ration shops still continue and will continue, and naturally the rationing also continues. So far as fair price shops are concerned, the Delhi Administration is thinking of a proposal to introduce a large number of fair price shops in place of ration shops. But that proposal is not yet finalised, and the very purpose of continuing the ration shops is to look after the vulnerable sections of society in Delhi. Therefore the ration shops continue and rations supplied to these shops will be distributed to the vulnerable sections.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have finalised any policy about the distribution of sugar from these shops?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: It continues, and it is rationed.

SHRI G. R. PATIL: May I know, Sir, from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that because of the larger-Northern Food Zone wheat from Haryana and Punjab is being dumped in Delhi and that there the market price of wheat is much lower than the ration shop price, and that because of the unsold stocks of wheat Government has decided to subsidise the ration shops to the tune of two crores of rupees?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: It is a fact that there is open sale of wheat in Delhi and when Delhi was included in the Northern Zone a lot of wheat became available in the open market. That has been responsible partly for the decline in prices in the Delhi markets. But we do not propose to do anything about the subsidy to ration shops. The prices in the ration shops are reasonable and people are at liberty to purchase on their ration cards from the ration shops or from the open market.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: Even though Delhi is within the zone of Punjab why is it that the poorest

quality of rice is made available to Delhi at these ration shops and at higher rates?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I am not aware of this and if the hon. Member would bring to my notice any specific instance where there has been a rise in the prices I shall look into it. On the contrary the complaint is that the price of various varieties of wheat has fallen and instead of there being a rise there is a downward trend.

*123. [The questioners (Shri Jagat Narain and Sardar Ram Singh, were absent. For answer, vide cols. 906-07 infra.]

चिरीमिरी कोयला खान में दुर्घटना

*124. **पंडित भवानी प्रसाद तिवारी :**
श्री चित्ता बसु :

क्या श्रम तथा पुनर्वास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश की चिरीमिरी कोयला खान में हाल में हुई दुर्घटना में कितने व्यक्ति मारे गए और कितने घायल हुए ।

(ख) उस दुर्घटना के बारे में किस प्रकार की जांच की गई और जांच में दुर्घटना के क्या कारण सामने आए हैं ;

(ग) घायल कर्मचारियों तथा मृत कर्मचारियों के परिवारों को क्या मुआवजा दिए जाने का विचार है ; और

(घ) श्रमिक संगठनों द्वारा न्यायिक जांच के लिए की गई मांग के सम्बन्ध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है ?

†[ACCIDENT IN CHIRIMIRI COLLIERY

*124. **PT. BHAWANI PRASAD**
TIWARY;
SHRI CHITTA BASU;

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

†[] English translation.

(a) the number of persons killed and injured in the recent Chirimiri Colliery accident in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the nature of enquiry conducted into the accident and the causes of the accident as revealed during the enquiry;

(c) the compensation which is proposed to be given to the injured employees and to the relations of those who have been killed in this accident; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government to the demand made by the labour organisations for a judicial enquiry?]

श्रम तथा पुनर्वास मंत्री (श्री जयसुखलाल हाथी) : (क) से (घ) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है ।

विवरण

(क) 14 व्यक्ति मारे गए, 16 को सख्त चोटें आईं और 27 को मामूली चोटें आईं ।

(ख) खान अधिनियम के उपबन्धों के अन्तर्गत खान निदेशालय इस मामले में जांच कर रहा है । निदेशालय से प्राप्त प्रारम्भिक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार यह दुर्घटना विस्तृत छत के गिरने से उत्पन्न वातापात के कारण खान के उस क्षेत्र में हुई जहाँ खनन कार्य समाप्त हो चुका था और आगे कोई खुदाई नहीं हो रही थी । विस्तृत जांच अभी जारी है ।

(ग) कर्मकार प्रतिकर अधिनियम के उपबन्धों के अन्तर्गत प्रबन्धकों द्वारा मुआवजा दिया जायगा । मृत्यु की सूत्र में मुआवजे की अधिकतम राशि 10,000 रुपये और स्थायी रूप की पूर्ण विकलांगता की सूत्र में 14,000 रुपये है । इसके अतिरिक्त कोयला खान कल्याण आयुक्त कल्याण निधि की घातक और सख्त दुर्घटना लाभ योजना के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित वित्तीय सहायता की व्यवस्था कर रहा है :—

(i) मृत श्रमिक की विधवा या मृत