

of Jammu and Kashmir. The process is continuing and those differences are going to be removed and this process, I hope, will go on.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it a fact that certain labour laws and certain beneficial legislations which were adopted in Parliament do not *ipso facto* apply in the case of the State of Jammu and Kashmir and that is to the detriment of the people? May I know, Madam, why, from that angle, the Government is not trying to alter the arrangements instead of just trying to change the name? I am fond neither of the Sadar-i-Riyasat nor of the Governor.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put your question briefly and explicitly.

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: To some extent headway is being made in the direction of application of labour laws also. Recently, welfare facilities available for workers in coal mines have been extended to the State of Jammu and Kashmir and I should imagine that whatever is good for the people of that State would be applied, and since there is a representative Government there, certainly they would like to apply all these acts . . .

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: One question. Madam,

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: Let me complete the answer.

. . . and the process of consultation is there and with their concurrences these things can be done.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: Madam, may I enquire whether in this process of change towards complete and total integration of Kashmir with the rest of India, the tempo is determined solely by the advice of the State Government given to the Centre or whether the Centre has its own time-table and gives indication from time to time of the steps the State has to take towards reaching this consummation?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: It is on both sides, mutual. We can suggest and they can also come forward with their own ideas but the manner and the pace of progress will be determined by the conditions which prevail at the time.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: May I know whether it is a fact that quite a large number of people of Kashmir, namely those belonging to the Indian National Congress, a good section of the ruling party, the Praja Socialist Party, the Akali Dal, the Harijan Mandal and all have requested the Government of India to abrogate this article? Is it also a fact that the Government of India has received some complaint from the people of Kashmir that under this article, one single family known as BBC, Bakshi Brothers Corporation, is taking benefit and that the people of Kashmir are not being given any benefit of this article? If that is so, would the Government of India take steps to take the wishes of the people of Kashmir into consideration?

SHRI GULZARILAL NANDA: The latter part of the question is entirely . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You need not answer.

*219. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1410-11 infra.]

RAJ COMMITTEE ON STEEL CONTROL

*220. { DR. A SUBBA RAO:
SHRI ARJUN ARORA:
SHRI M. C. SHAH:†
SHRI R. K. BHUWALKA:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Raj Committee on steel control has submitted its final report to Government;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. C. Shah.

(b) if so, what are main recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) whether Government have accepted these recommendations and if so what action has been taken to implement them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee's main recommendations amount in effect to a partial decontrol over the distribution of steel. On pricing their recommendations envisage that the Joint Plant Committee of producers will fix the first sale prices of all the Main Producers, subject to the approval of Government and subject to such directives as Government may issue whenever necessary.

(c) The recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of Government and a decision on them will be taken as early as practicable.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether the Raj Committee report has been circulated to the States and whether the States have been asked to comment thereon?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: There was first a preliminary report by the Committee. That was circulated to everybody and comments were asked for, and on the basis of those comments the final report has been submitted. This report also has been circulated to everybody.

RAISING OF COAL BY N.C.D.C.

***221. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL:** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the raising of coal by the National Coal Development Corporation Ltd. is mainly by quarry system and by removal of 60' to 80' overburden system only; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) It is not a fact that raising of coal by N.C.D.C. is mainly by quarry system. According to the Third Plan programme, about 50 per cent of the coal to be raised by the N.C.D.C. is to be won from opencast mines, and the rest from underground mines. The depth of the overburden on the outcrop side may be of the order of 60 feet to 80 feet, but on the dip side, this depth may increase even up to 400 feet.

(b) Opencast mining is adopted wherever conditions permit, for the following advantages:

- (1) large production from a concentrated area in a comparatively short time;
- (2) safer working as compared to underground mines;
- (3) maximum extraction of coal reserves is possible so that there is practically no loss of coal; and
- (4) in the generality of cases, opencast mines are cheaper.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: May I know, Madam, the target of the coal to be raised by the N.C.D.C. by the end of the Third Five Year Plan?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: It is 30.5 million tons.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: The hon. Deputy Minister said that to extract easy coal sometimes opencast mining is done. When this type of coal will be over through opencast mining, may I know, Sir, whether or not the N.C.D.C. will be in a position to maintain the same targets while working deep mining?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: It takes into account both opencast mines and