

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: That will also be one of the points for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all he wants.

NEW RAILWAY LINE FROM TALCHER TO ROURKELA

*425. SHRI S. M. HEMROM: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for the construction of a railway line from Talcher to Rourkela;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what will be the cost of construction of the new line and in which financial year it is to be included; and

(c) when the work is expected to be (i) commenced, and (ii) completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI S. M. HEMROM: Is the Government aware of some news item about this railway line which appeared in the Press?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Perhaps the hon. Member is referring to the siting of the steel plant at Rourkela. Sir, this decision has been recently taken by the Production Ministry and we are awaiting details from them as to what we should do in this matter.

VIOLATION OF REWA AWARD AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF LABOUR LAWS BY THE KOTMA COLLIERY IN VINDHYA PRADESH

*426. SHRI RATANLAL KISHORI-LAL MALVIYA: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Management of the Associated Cement Company's Kotma Colliery in Vindhya Pradesh have violated the Rewa

Award and the provisions of Labour Laws by non-payment of:

(i) the minimum wages and Coal Mines Bonus to coal transport workers for the past three years;

(ii) the minimum Dearness Allowance of Rs. 11-4-0 to workers as laid down in the Rewa Award; and

(iii) the lawful remuneration to miners for coal tubs loaded by them;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Regional Labour Commissioner, Dhanbad, had asked the management to implement the Award and pay all the dues to the workers but the management refused to carry out his instructions; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI V. V. GIRI): (a), (b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

I may add for the information of the hon. Member that the Regional Labour Commissioner is in close touch with the management and has promised to send a report on the results of his intervention and the same is awaited.

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: In view of the fact, Sir, that delay has been caused in implementation of the award and in forcing the management to make payments to the workers, the management is encouraged and victimisation is going on; extortion of money from the labour is going on and that money is used for corrupting officers and crushing the Unions. So, will the Government take immediate steps?

SHRI V. V. GIRI: I am expecting the report of the Regional Labour Commissioner and I am sure he will deal with all these matters.