

Madhya Pradesh by Government under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948;

(b) what were the rates of the wages so fixed; and

(c) whether Government have notified proposals for revising the same; if so, by when new rates of wages are likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) and (b) A minimum wage of Rs. 4.00 per day for unskilled workers was notified on the 17th July, 1973.

(c) Draft proposals for revision were published on the 8th September, 1975. The Advisory Board is being consulted with a view to finalising the proposals.

Mobile Post Offices in U.P.

*561. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mobile post office facility has been introduced in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of mobile post offices at present working in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative, by when this facility is proposed to be introduced in that State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are one urban and 8 rural mobile post offices.

(c) Does not arise.

Loss of Jobs of Workers in Mines

*562. SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN:

SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI :

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

(a) whether Government have received representations about the loss of jobs by

over four thousand workers in Barbil area of Keonjhar district in Orissa during the last few months, particularly in mines belonging to M/s. Lai and Co., M/s. Rungta mines, Orissa Mining Corporation, B. D. Patnaik and Mohd. Sirajuddin;

(b) if so, the nature of the allegations made in the representation and how many workers have lost jobs in the mines;

(c) whether Government propose to investigate into the rise in unemployment in iron ore and manganese mines by the Iron Ore Board;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps have been taken to prevent the rise in unemployment in iron ore and manganese mines in this area and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement Loss of jobs of workers in Mines

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received alleging that 4,000 workers in iron ore and manganese mines in the Barbil area of Keonjhar district in Orissa have been thrown out of employment in recent months.

(c), (d) and (e) Following a heavy accumulation of iron ore stocks of over 1.60 million tonnes due to lower offtake by foreign buyers in the wake of worldwide recession in Steel industry, the MM-TC have been obliged to reduce their offtake from the iron ore, mines in Bihar-Orissa area. This has resulted in reduced mining activity and, consequently, some reduction in employment in iron ore mines. Since these relate to private sector mines, Government have no precise information about the actual number of workers retrenched on this account. There has been no reduction, however, in the offtake of manganese ore. It may also be added that the total offtake of iron ore from the Bihar-Orissa sector by the MMTC during 1975-76 has been around 2.60 million tonnes, as against 1.18 million tonnes only in the preceding year, 1974-75.