

(a) the progress that has been made in stabilising the Jammu-Srinagar Road from Udhampur to Banihal, since its transfer to the Army Engineering Department; and

(b) to what extent land erosion and land slides have been controlled in order to ensure smooth traffic on this road, more particularly during the Tourist traffic season?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramiah):**

(a) The overall responsibility for the improvement and maintenance of the road from Pathankot to Srinagar was taken over by the Border Roads Development Board with effect from 1-4-61. Since then, various works for improvement of the road from Udhampur to Banihal have been sanctioned at a total cost of about Rs. 45 lakhs. These works are in progress under the supervision of Commander Engineer, Banihal.

(b) The results of works which have been executed or are in progress will be judged during ensuing Tourist season. The Commander Engineer, Banihal has been given necessary machinery, equipment and manpower to ensure that the dislocation of traffic on this road is minimised, if not eliminated altogether.

#### **Expenditure on Oil and Natural Gas Commission**

**\*322. Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual expenditure on Oil & Natural Gas Commission; and

(b) the result of oil prospecting in Rajasthan?

**The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) The total expenditure of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission during the year 1961-62 was Rs. 14.34 crores (approx.)

(b) Prospecting for oil in Rajasthan has commenced recently and

results will be known only after completion of prospecting work.

#### **Coal**

**\*323. {** Shri A. S. Saigal:  
Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri Subodh Hansda:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri B. K. Das:  
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:  
Shri Morarka:  
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:  
Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:  
Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:  
Shri P. C. Borooah:  
Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Daji:  
Shri Bishan Chander Seth:  
Shri Mohammad Elias:

Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that supply of coal quota has been cut for various industries and its price is going to be increased;

(b) if so, details of increase in price;

(c) whether it is due to the insufficient supply of coal by mine owners; and

(d) what action Government is taking to increase the production of coal so that it may not affect the working of various projects in the Third Five Year Plan?

**The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) and (b). The revision of quotas has been effected in order to match them closely with the rail transport capacity available. Since the revised quotas are generally higher than what was actually supplied during 1961, the expectation is that consumers will get at least the same quantities of coal, if not more, as last year.

(c) Yes, there has been some insufficient supply of coal also by mine-owners in some regions. The coal industry has been urging for

some time for an increase in coal price. The representations of the Industry in this regard are still under consideration.

(d) Production of coal during the Third Five-Year Plan is to be increased from 60 million tons a year to 97 million tons. Government are taking necessary steps not only to facilitate the achievement of this target but even to exceed it if possible. Several measures are under contemplation in this connection which will be decided in the next few weeks. Necessary foreign exchange is also being provided to enable the industry to import more plant and machinery for increase in production.

#### **Diploma of Mining of Bagha Mining School, Dhanbad**

**\*324. Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Will the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the students of the reorganised Mining Class of Bagha Mining School, Dhanbad have gone on general strike with effect from the 14th February, 1962 because of the non-recognition by the Union Government of the Diploma awarded by the Board of Technical Education, Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the matter of selection of candidates for Government appointments, recognition is given to the identical diploma so far it relates to Mining Institute Jharia (Maithon) and the Mining Institute, Kodarma; and

(c) if so, whether Government will re-examine the case and remove the anomaly that has been created by deleting the Bhaga Mining School from the communicate issued by the Union Government published in Bihar papers on the 22nd November, 1961?

**The Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun Kabir):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the State Government itself had proposed only Jharia & Kodarma for the establishment of two regular mining schools, these were recognised by the Central Government.

(c) The question of developing the Bhaga School also into a regular mining school is under consideration.

#### **Ankleshwar Stores**

**\*325. Shri Yajnik:** Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether any serious complaints have been received regarding the management of stores of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission at Ankleshwar;

(b) whether the store-keeper at Ankleshwar has been suspended;

(c) whether a large quantity of cement was sought to be removed from the godowns of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission by certain persons at Ankleshwar; and

(d) whether any arrests have been made in this connection?

**The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) and (b). Some complaints have been received and are being enquired into; action would follow on the basis of the result of the enquiry;

(c) and (d). The matter is being investigated by the police.

#### **Foundry Forge Factory at Ranchi**

**\*326. { Shri Subodh Hansda:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:**

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the detailed project report for the Foundry Forge Factory at Ranchi has been submitted by Messrs. Technoexport, Prague to Heavy Engineering Corporation; and

(b) if so, when and the details thereof?