

they fit in with the date of commission.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know when the other two washing plants are likely to be set up?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** That is a separate question for which I would require notice.

**American Assistance for Higher Technological Institute**

\*193. **Shri C. E. Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether any American technical and financial assistance was offered for the establishment of Higher Technological Institute in the country;

(b) if so, at what stage the negotiations are; and

(c) where the Institution is likely to be located?

**The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. M. M. Das):** No offer of American assistance has been received for the establishment of a Higher Technological Institute. However, it is for the Central Government to consider financing the project out of the Foreign Aid Funds available.

I may add that there are certain Foreign Aid Funds available for financing various development projects in this country. These funds consist of the funds provided by the U.S.A. including funds under the Surplus Agricultural Commodities Agreement between India and the U.S.A. It is for the Government of India to finance any developmental project including a Higher Technological Institute out of these funds.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know whether the services of the American experts who have helped us in the setting up of the higher technological institute at Kharagpur will be utilised for the setting up of the other technological institutes which are going to be set up in the northern and southern regions?

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The whole question is under the consideration of the Government of India now.

**Revision of Coal Prices**

\*194. **Shri Sadhan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have agreed to further raising of prices of coal;

(b) if so, the extent of the rise agreed to; and

(c) the reasons for agreeing to such rise?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) to (c). The question has been under consideration ever since the pronouncement of the Award of the Labour Appellate Tribunal on colliery disputes. In the meantime, the colliery owners moved the Supreme Court for special leave to appeal and also obtained an *ad interim* stay against the operation of the Award. The decision of the Supreme Court is awaited. Meanwhile a Coal Price Revision Committee has been set up.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** May I know whether any rise in price has been agreed to, pending the decision of the Coal Price Revision Committee?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Actually, the committee which has been constituted to advise Government on the price structure is to examine this matter, and it will be after that examination that Government will take a decision.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** May I know whether Government are going to give effect to the award of the Labour Appellate Tribunal in their own collieries?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Whatever is the final decision of the judicial tribunal, whether it be the Labour Appellate Tribunal or the Supreme Court, will be the decision which Government will respect.

**Shri Sadhan Gupta:** May I know whether Government have appealed to the Supreme Court themselves, and if not, whether Government are going to enforce and give effect to the Labour Appellate Tribunal's award?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** So far as I remember, Government have not preferred an appeal themselves. But certain colliery owners have preferred an appeal, and an *ad interim* lay order has been passed by the Supreme Court. And Government will not start implementing even in the public sector a decision against which an appeal is pending before the Supreme Court.

**Shri C. D. Pande:** In view of the fact that generally the prices in the Government-owned collieries are higher than in the privately-owned collieries, and Government are forced to raise the price of coal, may I know whether the margin of profit in the private sector will not become higher, and people will not have to pay more for the same coal?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** It is much too general a question. It is more of an argumentative character, and it is not possible to answer it in a summary way.

The cost structure of coal is a complicated matter. The coal price and the cost of production of coal in various collieries, even in the private sector, vary from one colliery to another; and certain decisions have been taken. But I do not accept the proposition that the price of the coal produced in the State collieries is in any way higher than that in other collieries where comparable conditions prevail.

#### Janta Insurance Policy

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\*196. { **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:**  
**Shri Sadhan Gupta:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life State Insurance Corporation of India propose to introduce Janta Insurance Policy; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main features of the Scheme are:

- (i) The policy will be for small amounts varying from Rs. 250 to Rs. 1,000;
- (ii) There will be no medical examination except where the person is aged over 35; and
- (iii) Door to door collection of premiums by authorised agents or through sale of stamps.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know the period of maturity of these policies?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** These policies will be endowment policies.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** I asked about the duration of the maturity of policies. There are policies which mature in 15 years, 20 years etc. What will be the duration of these policies?

**Mr. Speaker:** What is the maximum and what is the minimum?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** I do not have those figures.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** In what way will the Janata insurance policies benefit the rural population of this country? Have Government formulated any specific scheme about it?

**An Hon. Member:** Like Janata Express!

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** This scheme envisages that agents will approach the rural sector. These policies will be for small amounts and there will be other facilities too such as no medical examination, and collection of premium through stamps and so on. This is primarily with a view to reach the village and the low income groups.

**Shri E. S. Murthy:** May I know whether Government have calculated