

(d) has any Housing Board been set up for this purpose?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a)—

Year	Rs. (to the nearest thousand)
1944—45	1,000
1945—46	74,000
1946—47	60,000
1947—48	89,000
1948—49	91,000
1949—50	1,22,000
1950—51	1,44,000
1951—52—Ests:	1,30,000

(b) Yes. About Rs. 3,10,000 were spent during the years 1944-45 to 1951-52 on account of anti-malaria measures, subsidy for pithead baths and general administration charges.

(c) Government of India in the Ministry of Labour, in consultation with the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Advisory Committee, Finance Sub-Committee, Coalfields Sub-Committees (including one in Assam) and Housing Board.

(d) Yes.

ASSAM OIL COMPANY EMPLOYEES

***2253. Shri J. N. Hazarika:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees appointed in the Assam Oil Company, Assam;

(b) the number of non-Indians in the Company; and

(c) on what basis the appointments of higher category of officers are made?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain):

(a) 7,500 approximately.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected.

ASSAM OIL COMPANY PRODUCTS

***2254. Shri J. N. Hazarika:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) which of the products and by-products in the Assam Oil Company at Digboi are exported to foreign countries; and

(b) whether there is any machinery to regulate and control the price of petrol and other petroleum products and if so, what is it, and how is it working?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) Only Paraffin Wax is exported to foreign countries.

(b) The selling price of petroleum products is fixed by the Oil Companies on the basis of a formula, approved by Government. The basic items in the current price structure of oil, both imported and indigenous, are the f.o.b. cost of supplies at the Gulf of Mexico ports plus the ocean freight from Abadan to Indian ports.

HOUSES FOR COAL MINE LABOUR

***2255. Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have their own Public Works Agency to execute the works in connection with construction of hutments for the Coal Mining Labour in Bihar;

(b) why has this separate agency been formed;

(c) why are the works not being executed through C.P.W.D.; and

(d) how do the rates obtained by these two agencies compare?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Till 1947, the construction of buildings of the Fund was entrusted to the Central Public Works Department. Towards the end of that year, the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Advisory Committee, which advises the Government of India in the administration of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947, recommended that this should be put under them and their own Engineering staff, so that they can have greater control and supervision over the building projects. A further important consideration was that the cost of this separate organisation would be more economical than payment of prescribed departmental charges to the Central Public Works Department. This recommendation was accepted by the Government of India.

(d) I am satisfied that the rates compare favourably with what would have been paid if the works were executed through the Central Public Works Department.

EXECUTION OF BUILDING WORKS

***2256. Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether works have been allotted for execution of buildings by