

imports from the Rupee area. However, representations were received from these States in the matter and the foreign exchange made available for the period April—September, 1963 was distributed amongst all the States.

(c) The increased allocation of foreign exchange during October, 1963—March, 1964 was distributed proportionately among all the States except for very minor adjustments in the quotas of individual States in order to give an increased allotment to Himachal Pradesh.

Train Collision at Baudpur Station

465. Shri Gokulananda Mohanty: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2153 on the 14th April, 1964 and state:

(a) whether the report of the Additional Commissioner for Railway Safety detailing the responsibility for the train collision at Baudpur station on the S.E. Railway has since been received; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). The enquiry report into the accident has not yet been finalised.

Disposal of prospecting licence mining lease applications

466. Shri H. C. Soy: Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of applications to the State Government automatically cease to be effective on the lapse of nine months of filing the petitions by the prospective lessees of mines; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that similarly large number of petitions

specially from Bihar are lying with the Central Government for extension of prospecting lease periods for a long time?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). Rules 11 and 24 of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 prescribe time-limits (9 months) within which an application for grant of prospecting licence/mining lease should be disposed of by the State Government. If it is not so disposed of, the application shall be deemed to have been rejected. If the party so chooses, it can come in revision to the Central Government after the expiry of the prescribed period from the date of application. At the same time, the State Government can also seek extension of the time-limit in respect of such application which they propose to grant. The Central Government consider such proposals of the State Governments on merits and, wherever necessary, grant extension of time-limit in *suo moto* revision under section 30 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. At present, only five cases of this nature from the Government of Bihar are pending with the Central Government mainly because the applicants have also filed revision applications under rule 54 of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, which are under quasi-judicial examination of the Central Government and will be decided by the Tribunal constituted for the purpose. All these applications were received by the Central Government during the current year, 1964.