

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The decision to prematurely retire two of the above-mentioned three officers has been up-held on review. The case of the third officer is, however, still under consideration.

#### Traffic on Pankha Road, New Delhi

3917. SHRI KAILASH PRAKASH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traffic on the Pankha Road, New Delhi has substantially increased and the present single lane is inadequate to cope with it;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to widen the road and to provide a double lane for the traffic (including for the portion that falls in the Cantonment area);

(c) whether there is a proposal to construct an over-bridge or a sub-way at the railway crossing on the said road in order to remove a serious traffic bottleneck in the area; and

(d) if so, the nature thereof and when it would be taken up for construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing single lane (12 ft.) Pankha road has already been widened to 2 lanes (24 ft.) from Najafgarh road crossing to railway crossing. Further programme already going on provides for widening to 4 lane divided carriageway (24 ft. each) from Najafgarh road crossing to Mayapuri crossing and a 3-lane carriageway (36 ft.) from Mayapuri crossing to railway crossing. The Cantonment authorities have been requested to take necessary action for widening the portion in their area.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Coal Mining by Solid Blasting Methods

3918. DR. B. N. SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining of coal by solid blasting methods through explosives which was prohibited by the Director, Council of Mines Safety before nationalisation has now been allowed; and

(b) if so, since when it has been allowed and what are the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). There is no rule restricting the use of solid blasting method for coal extraction, except in the case of gassy mines. In fact, the permission for solid blasting was first granted by the Chief Inspector of Mines (Director General, Mines Safety), in 1968.

The use of solid blasting method obviates the use of coal cutting machines and their electrical accessories. It improves the operational efficiency by dispensing with the rigid cycle of operation involved in the use of the coal cutting machines. Solid blasting method is safe and economical.

भारतीय रूई निगम में विनोद मिल्स कम्पनी लिमिटेड, उज्जैन द्वारा रूई की गांठ की खरीद

3919. श्री रामेश्वर पाटीदार : क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि भारतीय रूई निगम में जनवरी-दिसम्बर, 1976 के दौरान विनोद मिल्स कम्पनी लिमिटेड, उज्जैन (मध्य प्रदेश) द्वारा रूई की कितनी गांठें खरीदी गईं ?

उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (कुमारी आशा मयती) : विनोद मिल्स कं० लिमिटेड, उज्जैन ने 1976 (जनवरी से दिसम्बर) में भारतीय कपास निगम से कपास की 335 गांठें खरीदी थीं।