

किया गया और यदि हा, तो इस धनराशि का भुगतान उनको कब किया जायेगा ?

ऊर्जा मंत्री (श्री पी० रामचन्द्रन) :

(क) बिहार में सरकारी क्षेत्र की कोयला खानों से भविष्य निधि की अद्यतन भुगतानी हो चुकी है ।

(ख) और (ग). जिला संचाल परगना को छोड़कर सरकारी क्षेत्र की कोई कोयला खान बन्द नहीं की गई। संचाल परगना में कुछ बहुत खर्चीली भलाभकर कोयला खानों को बन्द किया गया था किन्तु इन खानों में किन्हीं नियमित कामगारों की दृष्टि नहीं की गई बल्कि उन्हें दूसरी खानों में रखा लिया गया था ।

Declaration of rivers Ganga, Bhagirathi and Hooghly as National Waterways

3005. SHRI ROBIN SEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to declare the rivers Ganga, Bhagirathi and Hooghly as 'National Waterways' as recommended by various Committees set up by Government;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) to (c). A proposal for enactment of a legislation for declaring certain waterways as National Waterways and to declare rivers Ganga, Bhagirathi & Hooghly as a National Waterways under that Act is under consideration. It is, however, not possible to indicate at this stage the time by which a final decision on, the proposal will be taken as

various financial, legal and administrative aspects need to be examined.

Length of National Highway in (M.P.)

3006. SHRI PARMANAND GO-VINDJIWALA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are aware of the fact that in Madhya Pradesh State the length of National High Ways is only 5.0 K.M. per 1000 K.M. which is very low when compared to other States;

(b) whether it is a fact that during Fourth and Fifth Plan Periods not a single national highway has been declared in the State;

(c) whether Government have received proposals from the State Government of M.P. for declaration of certain routes as National Highways; and

(d) if so, what decision has been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) National Highways in Madhya Pradesh aggregate to 2670 Kms. in length which is the second largest length of National Highways among the States. It works out to 6.01 Kms. per 1000 Sq. Kms. of area which is not low as compared to several States like Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir and Manipur.

(b) and (e). Yes Sir, but nonetheless attention continued to be concentrated on the development of existing National Highways.

(d) Due to financial constraints and other priorities Government of India are unable presently to make any new additions to the existing National Highway System.