

which the Telephone and Telecommunications Department of Hyderabad is to be treated as a permanent; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram) : (a) Yes, from 4th April, 1949.

(b) Does not arise.

Swang Railway Colliery

*141. { **Shri Chattopadhyaya**;
 Shri T. B. Vittal Rao :

Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2710 on the 28th May, 1956, and state whether the Court of Inquiry appointed under provisions of Regulation 48 of the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, against the Agent and Manager of the Swang Railway Colliery has since submitted its findings?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) : No. The Agent and Manager have filed writ petitions in the High Court of Judicature, Patna, against the decision to proceed against them under Regulation 48. The High Court have restrained the Court of Inquiry from taking steps.

Giridih Collieries

*142. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao**: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any increase in production at Giridih Collieries as a result of the implementation of the recommendations of the Technical Experts Committee Report; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the production has been stepped up?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) and (b). It is too early to assess the effect of the implementation of the recommendations on production.

Village Industries

*145. **Shri Jhulan Sinha** : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government encourage to any extent the village industries in the country by purchase for its own use of hand-pounded rice, ghani oil, palm gur and other catables produced by these industries ; and

(b) whether Government also purchase to any extent the products of soap from non-edible oils, match boxes and handicrafts produced on small scales?

The Deputy Minister of Production (Shri Satish Chandra) : (a) and (b). The general policy is to encourage whenever possible, the purchase of articles manufactured by village industries. The limited production is however lifted normally by local markets and there is no appreciable purchase by Government.

The handicraft articles are purchased for display in museums or exhibitions held in India and abroad, for making gifts on behalf of India and for furnishing and decoration.

Lodna Colliery Incident

*152. **Shri K. S. Rao** : Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the findings of the Inspector of Mines who enquired into the drowning of four miners at Lodna Colliery, Jharia, due to inundation on the night of the 12th September, 1956?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) : According to the findings of the Regional Inspector of Mines the accident was due to non-compliance of the provisions of regulation 74 of the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, and regulation 5(2) of the Coal Mines (Temporary) Regulations, 1955.

Zawar Mines

*157. **Shri Bheekha Bhai** : Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1154 on the 30th August, 1956, and state:

(a) the result of the enquiry made into the demands of the labourers of Zawar mines ;

(b) the extent to which demands have been conceded; and

(c) how many of the demands have been referred to arbitration?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) : (a) to (c). On the intervention of the Labour Inspector (Central) Bhillwara, an agreement was reached in respect of six demands of the workmen. Both the management and the workmen agreed to refer the remaining demands for arbitration to the Chief Minister of Rajasthan. The decision was given on the 21st September, 1956. Out of the twenty-two demands referred to him, thirteen were fully conceded, five demands partly conceded, one rejected and one remains to be settled. Two demands were withdrawn.