

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 8 labourers are engaged in parcel handling and 10 labourers on goods handling on part time basis, as and when required by the Railways. They normally work for private parties and paid by them.

(b) and (c). These labourers have been engaged on part time basis as and when required by the Chief Goods Clerk and Commercial Supervisor who work ex-officio as handling contractors. The payment is done strictly on the basis of traffic handled. The average monthly payments made per labourer on this account comes to Rs. 35.63 and Rs. 40.00 approximately for handling parcels and goods traffic respectively during the last 3 months. These labourers are working only on a part time basis with the Railways when required and they normally work for the private parties at Dhanbad station.

Minimum wages to Labourers in parcel and goods handling contracts, Dhanbad

2067. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labourers engaged in Parcel and goods handling contracts in Dhanbad Station are paid the minimum wages or not; and

(b) the action taken by the RLC(c), Dhanbad to ensure payment of minimum wages, weekly leave and other benefits to these labourers as admissible under the law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) Employment in Parcel and Goods handling is not yet covered under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

(b) In view of the answer at (a) above, the RLC(c) cannot take any action under the Minimum Wages Act.

Minimum wages in Coal and Ash handling Contractors, Dhanbad

2068. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) total number of labourers working under the Coal and Ash handling contractors in different sheds of Dhanbad Division E. Railway;

(b) whether they are paid the minimum wages, weekly rest, leave and other facilities;

(c) whether proper records are maintained and payments are supervised by the Railway Officers;

(d) the facts in details regarding action taken by the RLC(c) Dhanbad to enforce statutory provisions of law; and

(e) whether the work is of regular nature and if so, whether it is proposed to be departmentalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) Total number of contract labour working under the coal and ash handling contractors in different sheds of Dhanbad Division of Eastern Railway, is 888.

(b) Minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 have not yet been fixed for these categories of workers. Contractors are, however, required to pay the workers the minimum rates of wages prevailing in the area for similar employment.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is not applicable to these employments the question of action under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 by the RLC(c) Dhanbad, does not arise.

(e) Since the receipt of coal traffic, in loco shed is not uniform in all the days around the year, the Railways have found contract labour more suitable for coal and ash handling work. The Railways have also not considered

it desirable to abolish the contract system because the pattern of traction is undergoing rapid changes and gauge conversion is in progress.

Invention of a drug useful in Child Birth and termination of pregnancy

2069. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new drug, useful in child birth and also for medical termination of pregnancy has been developed by the scientists at the Regional Research Laboratory Jammu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b). Scientists at Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu have been studying the anti-implantation and abortifacient activity of Pueraria Tuberosa. The results of the experiments in rats are quite encouraging. Further studies are continuing. Another drug vasicine Hydrochloride is also being tested for its abortifacient properties.

Railway expansion programme

2070 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA. Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that expansion programme of railways during the last two Five Year Plans was not rapid as was planned;

(b) the number of new lines in Kilometres against planned target; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). During the 4th Plan (1969-70 to 1973-74)

modernisation and its concomitant emphasis on efficient and economical aspects of rail transport became the focal point. 790 kms. of new lines were built during this plan.

The stress during the Fifth Plan (1974-75 to 1977-78) was to provide carrying capacity for the increased passenger and freight traffic. Construction of 848 kms. of new lines was completed during this plan period.

The route kilometres on the Indian Railways during the past 30 years have grown by about 7000 kms. or by about 13 per cent, while track kms. have increased by about 26 per cent due to double tracking etc. During the previous plans outlay on new railway lines was around Rs 100 crores in each Five Year period.

जयंत विटामिन कम्पनी, रतलाम पर भविष्य निधि और कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा योजना की बकाया राशि

2071. श्री निहाल सिंह: क्या भ्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जयंत विटामिन कम्पनी, रतलाम (मध्य प्रदेश) अपने दर्जे के अनुसार अपने कर्मचारियों को वेतन और मंहगाई भत्ता आदि का वितरण नहीं कर रही है और इस प्रकार वह कम्पनी अधिनियम के उपबंधों का उल्लंघन कर रही है और क्या सरकार को इस बारे में उसके खिलाफ कोई शिकायतें मिली हैं;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि उस पर कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा योजना और भविष्य निधि की भारी राशि बकाया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस कम्पनी के खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

भ्रम मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी. अंबेडकर): (क) से (ग). सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन की सत्र पर रख दी जाएगी।