

**Panna Diamond Mines**

**\*749. Shri Birendra Bahadur Singhji:**  
Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether a detailed programme has been drawn for the exploitation of Panna Diamond Mines during the Third Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what is that programme and what amount has been earmarked for this purpose during the Third Five Year Plan period?

**The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) The National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., are at present carrying out prospecting operations in the Panna Diamond Mining area. When the results of these investigations become available, a detailed programme for exploitation will be drawn up.

(b) It is estimated that a sum of Rs. 150 lakhs would be required for this project during the Third Five Year Plan period.

**Repayment of L.I.C. Loan by Ananda Bazar Patrika**

**\*750. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:**  
Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the house belonging to Hindusthan Standard, Delhi, and other assets have been sold and at what price;

(b) whether the Life Insurance Corporation loan taken by the Ananda Bazar Patrika Limited has been repaid; and

(c) if so, when to what extent?

**The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Turkeswari Sinha):** (a) to (c). The negotiation for sale of the Hindusthan Standard Building at Qutab Road, New Delhi has just been finalised and the draft conveyance is at present under scrutiny of the Life

Insurance Corporation who are the mortgagees of the property. The entire sale proceeds will be paid to the Corporation as and when the sale deed is effected.

**Canteen Stores Department (India)**

**\*751.** { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
          **Shri Muhammed Elias:**  
          **Shri Indrajit Gupta:**  
          **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**  
          **Shri Tangaman:**

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 1,500 employees of Canteen Stores Department (India) have decided to go on an indefinite strike from 6th March, 1961:

(b) if so, whether this strike is being launched as a protest against the non-implementation of the recommendations of the Pay Commission; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah):** (a) and (b). The Canteen Stores Department (India) Employees' Union gave a notice on the 8th February, 1961 of the intention of the employees all over India to go on strike from the midnight of 5th March, 1961 if before that date revised pay scales as recommended by the Pay Commission 1957 were not implemented in their case and the arrears paid to them.

(c) Government have set up a Study Group to consider the representations received and matters relevant thereto. The report will, it is hoped, enable Government to consider appropriate measures. The Union has been so informed and it has since deferred the strike.