

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The Council is to be transferred to the Ministry of Energy. Will you consider this proposal?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: On a question whether there is any tussle between the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Energy, my answer is emphatically, 'No'. But the most important aspect is, after Government have decided to wind it up, what would be the fate of the employees? There are 60 of them.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Not only employees, but safety of mine workers is involved.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: In my answer I have said that they will get their legitimate dues according to the law. But before this, may I assure the House, because a delegation of the employees has also met me I want assure the House, that as far as practicable the employees of this Council shall be absorbed in the DG Mines organisation. I am also taking up with the Department of Coal that they should also absorb some of them; if there is anybody left who could not be absorbed so that they could get their legitimate dues under the law.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why can't you transfer this Council to the Ministry of Energy

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Nothing good can come from this national Government. It is not true that everybody in the conference of Safety in Mines wanted the continuation of the National Council for Safety in Mines. The hon. Minister has said that it had done a good work. Then why have they decided to wind it up? He said that they will compensate the workers and the employees. It is not a question of giving the dues. The question is, the expertise they have, to use it for the safety measures in the mines. What is he going to do about that? I want a firm assurance. If they just try to brush us aside, because we are asking, then we shall direct them to work in the mines and they will understand what it would mean.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I agree with the

hon. Member that they have a lot of expertise. That is why I have stated, as they have already got certain expertise, then, as far as practicable they will be absorbed in DG of Mines Safety. It is doing the same type of work. We are going to absorb them. That is what I said.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Manning of Unmanned Railway Level Crossings

*496 SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any study has been made to assess the extent to which unmanned railway crossings are responsible for the railway accidents;

(b) if so, the outcome of such study and the details of the programme to man them;

(c) the total number of unmanned railway crossings, zone-wise as on 31 July, 1987; and

(d) the number of such crossings manned during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Study of accidents at level crossing, with a view to improving safety has been a continuing exercise. It has been observed that over the past three years, unmanned level crossings, which constitute 58% of the total number of level crossings, have contributed 67% of the total number of accidents at level crossings.

Arising out of a recent study, trials with one train-actuated warning device are already in progress. Based on evaluation of the results thereof, a decision will be taken regarding its adoption on a programmed basis, as an alternative to the present system of manning.

(c) The information is maintained finan-

cial year-wise. The position as on 31.3.87 was as follows:--

Central Railway	...	1152
Eastern Railway	.	734
Northern Railway	...	3029
North Eastern Railway		2591
Northeast Frontier Railway	...	1337
Southern Railway	...	2552
South Central Railway	...	2017
South Eastern Railway	...	3402
Western Railway	...	4606
(d) 1984-85	...	255
1985-86	...	222
1986-87	...	90

[*Translation*]

Teachers' Strike

497. SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where teachers went on strike, the reasons therefore, and the period for which such strikes continued during the last two academic years;

(b) whether any arrangements were made to make up the loss of studies caused by such strikes and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the students were charged tuition fee for the period of strikes and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Union Government have undertaken any study of this problem and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CUL-

TURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). There are reports from time to time about teachers going on strike in different institutions, and in different States. Detailed information on the reasons for such strikes, their duration, etc., is not collected and maintained by the Central Government.

On a call given by the All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisations, University and College teachers in several States and Universities went on a strike from 4.8.87 to demand certain modifications in the Scheme of revision of their pay scales announced by the Central Government. The Federation called off the strike on 4th September, 1987. According to information available, the Central Universities which were affected by the strike have made arrangements to make up the loss in teaching by working on holidays and curtailing the vacations.

(c) Interruptions in studies due to strike or other reasons are generally made good, and therefore, there have been no reports of any revision in tuition fees on this account.