(4) Lining water course on Hill and Bhabar area channel.

(5) Constructing 25 miles of channel in Distt. Pauri Garhwal.

(6) Constructing 20 miles of channel in Distt. Tehri Garhwal.

(7) Constructing 38 miles of channel in Nainital and Almora District.

(8) Small channels in Doon Valley.

These are purely tentative, subject to availability of funds during the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Re-organisation of D. V. C.

1363. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to re-organise the Damodar Valley Corporation has been finally considered;

(b) if so, the broad out-lines thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Fakhruddin Ahmed): (a) The proposal for re-organisation of the Damodar Valley Corporation is still under consideration.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

12.46 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Lock-out in New Jemehari Khas and Babisole collieries

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barrackpore): I call the attention of the Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

> "Lock-out in New Jemehari Khas and Babisole collieries resulting in unemployment of hundreds of workers."

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): *New Jemehari Khas Colliery* (owned by Bharat Mining Ltd. 9, Old Court House Street, Calcutta—1).

According to the information received by the Government there was no lock-out in New Jemehari Khas Colliery on the 28th July 1966. It has, however, been reported that 3 workers were charge-sheeted by the Management on the 27th July and consequently 28 loaders of the colliery protested by adopting go-slow tactics on that day, as well as during the first shift on the 28th July, 1966. The Management of the colliery laid-off 9 Trammers and 1 Dresser in the second shift on the 28th July. Normal work in the colliery was restored during the third shift on the same day after the matter had been settled in discussion between the parties concerned.

Babisole Colliery (Owned by New Jemehari Khas Colliery Co. Pvt. Ltd. P.O. J. K. Nagar, Distt. Burdwan).

The Department of Labour and Employment have received on the 2nd August 1966, a letter dated the 30th July 1966 from the Organising Secretary, Colliery Mazdoor Sabha, Asansol, intimating that the colliery was locked-out with effect from the 30th July, 1966 consequent on allegations of various malpractices in the supply of ration to workers, misbehaviour with some workers by one Labour Officer and demand for payment of bonus. A telegram was also received from the management of Babisole Colliery on 2nd August complaining of lawlessness on the part of the Colliery Mazdoor Sabha and assault on staff and officers. They stated that there was no [illegible]

[Shri Shahnawaz Khan]
rity of life and property in the colliery and demanded immediate intervention.

The management of Babisole Colliery are reported to have declared lock-out since 30th July 1966. Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) Calcutta has met the representatives of the management on 3rd August 1966 and discussed the points in dispute. Discussions are still in progress. Further action in the matter will be taken on receipt of his report.

As regards the non-payment of profit sharing bonus, the management of the colliery have not yet paid bonus for the year 1964 to their workmen in accordance with the provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act. The Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Calcutta has issued a show-cause notice to the colliery management to explain why action should not be taken against them for contravention of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Is it not a fact that discontent has been running high in Babisole colliery where this mine-owner has refused to open a ration shop whilst all the other mine-owners have opened the same; rather, they have been hoarding and doing blackmarketing in foodgrains and recently even the Government went and actually recovered foodgrains from the quarters of the Labour Officer and his brother? In spite of these things, they have sent telegrams to the labour directorate making allegations of violence. May I know whether the Government is in a position to do something regarding these illegal lock-outs and immediately order the reopening of the collieries?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As soon as we received information, we deputed the Regional Labour Commissioner to take action immediately. He is already in the midst of discussions. As soon as he finishes the discussion, action will be taken.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Why is it not possible to arrest the mine-owners who have been refusing to pay profit-sharing bonus and cheating the workers by taking false thumb-impressions on wage sheets and paying them less?

Mr. Speaker: She should have left it to another member.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We have issued a show-cause notice to him and on the expiry of that period, he will be prosecuted.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Calcutta South West): From the statement of the Minister it appears that this lock-out is not something which is taking place overnight. Has his ministry not been kept informed during the last several weeks of a series of malpractices and complaints against management which have been taking place, and does he now know that his own Labour Officer of the Raniganj Circle who inspected this colliery on 25th July issued a warning to the management against the maintenance of an illegal labour camp by the Labour Officer of the colliery and also issued a warning about non-payment of profit-sharing bonus and that for the last two year police cases under section 420 are pending against the management of this colliery for not paying the workers their full wages and that this lock-out now is imposed only to divert the attention of the Government and the workers from these malpractices? What action does he propose to take?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I said, the Labour Commissioner is already having discussion. All these points are before him. As soon as he finishes the investigation, we shall certainly take whatever action is called for.

Dr. Ranen Sen (Calcutta East): Last year after the Bonus Act was passed, the colliery-owners of the private sector refused to pay the bonus according to the Act. The Government of India gave them time

to pay within March 66, which the employers also agreed to. The Government threatened them with direct action if any colliery refused to pay the bonus within 31st March 1966. A little while ago the Minister said that though the management of the Babisole colliery refused to pay, the Government has only served a show-cause notice instead of going to the court straightway and prosecuting the employer. May I know why this mollycoddling attitude towards the employers who refuse to abide by the law of the land?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is a matter of procedure. We have given a show-cause notice of 10 days only. At the end of that, we will go ahead and take action.

Mr. Speaker: The question is, the Government has definite and concrete information that this colliery-owner did not pay the bonus under the Act. So, why did they not prosecute him? Is the show-cause notice mandatory?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Bipartite discussions between the management and labour were going on. These have broken down. Now we have issued show-cause notice for 10 days only.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Why issue show-cause notice? Why not prosecute him straightway?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: March was the last date.

Mr. Speaker: He says bipartite discussions were going on and they failed. Probably the time for show-cause notice would also be over soon.

Shri Ram Sewak Yadav.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: What about reopening the colliery? Production has stopped and 600 workers are unemployed. (*Interruptions*).

12.55 hrs.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

श्री रामसेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने ध्यानाकर्षण भी दिया था, उसके बारे में मैं कुछ कहना चाहता हूं ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय ध्यानाकर्षण नहीं, मोशन आफ़ प्रिवेलेज के लिये मैंने आपको बुलाया है ।

श्री रामसेवक यादव : उसे तो मैं अभी रख रहा हूं । लेकिन एक सेकण्ड के लिये मेरा निवेदन सुन लें ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मेरे पास 15-20 काल-एटेन्शन आये थे, अगर आप को सुनूं तो दूसरों को क्यों न सुनूं ।

श्री रामसेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, बिहार में जनतन्त्र कसौटी पर है । बिहार सरकार द्वारा दलीय हित के लिये आकाशवाणी का इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है । वहां पर लोगों को दबाने के लिये, गोली चलाने के लिये, वहां के मुख्य मंत्री कह चुके हैं.... (व्यवधान)

श्री बागड़ी (हिसार) : अध्यक्ष महोदय,...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने श्री यादव को बुलाया है ।

श्री बागड़ी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस विशेषाधिकार से पहले काम रोको प्रस्ताव आता है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मेरे पास काम रोको प्रस्ताव कोई नहीं है ।

श्री बागड़ी : मैंने आप को काम रोको प्रस्ताव दिया है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप इस तरह से नहीं उठा सकते हैं ।

श्री बागड़ी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके सामने एक कायदे कानून की बात रखता हूं । मेरा काम रोको प्रस्ताव कायदे के मुताबिक दुरुस्त है । जब हरियाणा प्रान्त के अन्दर और राजस्थान के अन्दर भुखमरी से लोग मर रहे हैं, इसके बारे में सरकारी बयान है, तब मैंने इसे आपके पास भेजा था ।