

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH):

(a) The Government have not received any such request.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Second Press Commission

*124. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:
SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a Press Commission again; and

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is now 25 years since the last Press Commission was set up. It is felt that the time may have come for another look at the basic issues that affect the quality and freedom of the press to see what steps are necessary to create conditions in which it, especially the language and regional press, can grow along healthier lines.

Illegal Coal Mining by Private Operators in Jharia and Hazaribagh

*129. SHRI K. A. RAJAN:
SIIRIMATI PARVATHI
KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that the private operators have again entered coal mining in a very big way all over Jharia and Hazaribagh;

(b) whether the private individuals were prevented from coal mining after the enactment of the Nationalisation Act; and

(c) if so, the action taken against these private operators?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). With the coming into force of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Act, 1976, with effect from 29th April, 1976 all coal leases held in the country by private parties, except those held by companies, engaged in the production of iron and steel were terminated. However, from May 1977 onwards, a number of parties filed writ petitions, in the Supreme Court challenging the above mentioned Act and obtained stay orders. On the basis of these stay orders, the parties started mining coal in areas including Jharia and Hazaribagh. Subsequently, however, these stay orders were got modified in September and October, 1977, whereby the parties have been prevented from mining coal, although taking over possession of their mines in pursuance of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Act, 1976, has been stayed. Central Government have addressed the State Governments of Bihar and West Bengal to take appropriate action in the light of the latest stay orders of the Supreme Court. Necessary steps have also been taken to oppose the writ petitions both on points law and facts. The matter, is, thus, sub-judice.

मीसा के उपबन्धों का वापस लिया जाना
और नजरबन्द लोगों को रिहाई

* 131. श्री उपसेन :
श्री एम० ए० हनान अलहाब:

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने मीसा के सभी उपबन्धों को वापस ले लिया है और इनके अन्तर्गत नजरबन्द लोगों को रिहा कर दिया है ;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो जेलों में, राजबवार, अभी तक कितने व्यक्ति नजरबन्द हैं !