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# INDIAN MINING FEDERATION



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
FOR 1969

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CALCUTTA



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

CENTRAL  
CHAIRMAN

Chairman

OF THE

B. Lal

Mohd.

E.M.F.

Island C. etc.

4. Sri S. B. Goenka.
5. Sri Babulal M. Varma.
6. Sri Pritamlal A. Chanchani.
7. Sri Khagendranath Dutt.
8. Sri S. N. Mullick.
9. Sri Sudhindranath Mukherjee.
10. Sri Nathmul Bhuwalka.
11. Sri B. S. Shethia.
12. Sri Dev Coomar Singhi.
13. Sri B. D. Sharma.
14. Sri S. D. Neotia.
15. Sri Manmohan Kakar.
16. Sri Dhajadhari Mondal.
17. Sri Dinendranath Dash.
18. Sri S. K. Saraogi.
19. Sri J. C. Worah.
20. Sri Sriram Goenka.
21. Sri Nirmal Kumar Jain.
22. Sri Subhendranath Mookherjee.

Secretary : Sri M. Das.

Office : 135, Biplabi Rashbehari Basu Road, C

# Indian Mining Federation

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Office Secretary, 135 Biplabini Rashidchani  
Basu Road, Calcutta.

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# Indian Mining Federation

## Report of the Committee for 1969. Coal

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**REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE**  
**Indian Mining Federation**

*For the year ended 31st December 1969.*

**1. INTRODUCTION**

In pursuance of the provision laid down in Article 14 of the Articles of Association of the Indian Mining Federation, the Committee of the Federation submits herein to the members their Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1969.

**A. THE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee for the year 1969 was elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Federation held on 19 March 1969. The Committee was constituted as under:

**A. ELECTED FROM MEMBERS OF CATEGORY 'A'**

1. Sri M. Sen Gupta (Messrs. East Bokaro Colliery).
2. Sri Sudhindranath Mukherjee (Messrs. Palasia Colliery).
3. Sri Subhendranath Mookherjee (Messrs. Royal Kusunda Colliery).

## B. ELECTED FROM MEMBERS OF CATEGORIES 'B' &amp; 'C'

1. Sri B. D. Sharma (Messrs. Moita, Samla Manderboni and Khas Badjna Collieries).
2. Sri B. S. Shethia (Messrs. New Satgram and New Majri Collieries).
3. Sri Babulal M. Varma (Messrs. Bastacolla Colliery).
4. Sri Dev Coomar Singhi (Messrs. The Jhagrakhand Collieries Private Ltd.).
5. Sri H. N. Mookherjee (Messrs. Lower Kenda Colliery).
6. Lala Inder Mohan Thapar (Messrs. Bhowra, Pootkee, Amlabad, Kankance, Badjna, Madhuband, Kampree, Real Jambad, Central Sounda and New Teturya Collieries).
7. Sri J. C. Worah (Messrs. Sendra Bansjora, East Nimcha, Kendwadih, Madhujore and Angarpathra Collieries).
8. Sri Manmohan Kakar (Messrs. Ramnagar and Rajhara Collieries).
9. Sri Nathmul Bhuwalka (Messrs. Kajora Selected Colliery).
10. Sri Nirmal Kumar Jain (Messrs. Chapui Khas and Maheshpur Collieries).
11. Sri P. K. Nag (Messrs. East Baraboni and Nag's Kajora Jambad Collieries).
12. Sri Pritamlal A. Chanchani (Messrs. Central & Lower Jambad, Haripur, New Damagoria, East Basuria, Jambad Kajora, Pure Kajora, Sitalpur, East Sitalpur and Purascole Collieries).

13. Sri S. B. Goenka (Messrs. Selected Kajora Jamhad Colliery).
14. Sri S. D. Neotia (Messrs. Samla-Chattrisgonda, Kendra, Ramnagar and Jaipuria Kajora Collieries).
15. Sri S. K. Saraogi (Messrs. Gonshadih, Alkusa South, Burragarh and Kustore Collieries).
16. Sri Sriram Goenka (Messrs. Sri Amritnagar Selected Colliery).
17. Sri V. K. Poddar (Messrs. Parasea, South Parasea and Krishnanagar Collieries).

In pursuance of the provision of Article 26 (iii), Sri Mulchand C. Parekh and Sri Khagendranath Dutt were co-opted as members of the Executive Committee.

Sri S. N. Mullick was co-opted as a member of the Executive Committee for the year 1969 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Sri M. Sen Gupta.

At a meeting of the Committee held on 24 March 1969 the following were nominated as President and Honorary Secretary of the Raniganj Branch Executive and as such became ex-officio members of the Committee:

1. *Raniganj Branch Executive:*

Sri N. B. Lall Singha, President.

Sri Dhajudhari Mondal, Honorary Secretary.

At a meeting of the Committee held on 17 April 1969, Sri Dinendranath Dash was nominated as Honorary Secretary of the Jharia Branch Executive and as such became ex-officio member of the Committee.

During the year under review the Committee of the Federation held twentyone Ordinary Meetings and nine Exigency Meetings as against twentyfour Ordinary Meetings and nine Exigency Meetings held in 1968.

The Federation issued 210 circulars to its members during the year under review as against 263 in 1968. In addition to above it issued 120 circulars to its Committee Members as against 136 circulars in 1968.

#### B. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

At an Ordinary Meeting of the newly-elected Committee held on 24 March 1969, Sri V. K. Poddar, Sri H. N. Mookherjee and Sri P. K. Nag were re-elected Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Jr. Vice-Chairman respectively of the Federation for the year 1969.

#### C. BRANCH EXECUTIVES AND COALFIELD COMMITTEES:

At the Ordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 17 April 1969, the following Branch Executives and Coalfield Committees were constituted for the year 1969:

##### 1. Jharia Branch Executive:

Sri J. S. Grewal,	Member.
Sri S. K. Palit,	"
Sri S. S. Mukherjee,	"
Sri Subhendranath Mookherjee,	"
Sri P. C. Mukherjee,	"
Sri S. L. Bagda,	"
Sri Shyamsundar Kejriwal,	"
Sri Dinendranath Dash,	Honorary Secretary.

2. *Jharia Coalfield Committee :*

Sri B. N. Dash,	Member.
Sri S. N. Bose,	"
Sri Sankar Jopat,	"
Sri B. N. Bagchi,	"
Sri Chandra Kanta Worah,	"
Sri Shyamsundar Kejriwal,	"
Sri S. K. Samanta,	"
Sri B. M. Agarwalla,	"
Thakur Ramratan Singh,	"
Sri A. Mewar,	"
Sri J. R. Sharma,	"
Sri Bogilal Shah,	"
Sri A. B. Gupta,	"
Sri N. N. Banerjee,	"
Sri Dinendranath Dash,	Honorary Secretary.

3. *Raniganj Branch Executive :*

Sri N. B. Lall Singha,	President
Sri R. Biswas,	Member.
Sri P. S. Lall Singha,	"
Sri Pundarikakshya Mondal,	"
Sri B. S. Gupta,	"
Sri T. D. Tripathi,	"
Sri R. B. Bansal,	"
Sri Jabban Singh,	"
Sri Dhajadhari Mondal,	Honorary Secretary.

4. *Raniganj Coalfield Committee :*

Sri D. P. Swaika,	Member.
Sri Mansuklal T. Pathak,	"
Sri S. M. Goenka,	"
Sri S. D. Mukherjee,	"
Sri P. R. Ghosh,	"
Sri R. G. Bidasaria,	"
Sri B. Misra,	"
Sri S. N. Misra,	"
Sri Sujit Nag,	"
Sri M. L. Goenka,	"
Sri J. N. Gupta,	"
Sri M. H. Jaghani,	"
Sri G. D. Parmar,	"
Sri I. M. Samanta,	"
Sri Sitaram Bhuwalka,	"
Sri R. D. Jindal,	"
Sri H. D. Roy,	"
Sri N. L. Kishan,	"
Sri A. P. Sharma,	"
Sri R. C. Patel,	"
Sri K. D. Chanchani,	"
Sri P. N. Chaturvedi,	"
Sri Dhajadhari Mondal,	Honorary Secretary.

5. *Mugma-Barakar Coalfield Committee :*

Sri D. Mondal,	President
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Sri S. K. Palit,	Member
Sri N. Banerjee,	"
Sri Sudhindranath Mukherjee,	"
Sri Hansmukh Chanchani,	"
Sri Haris Chandra Saini,	"
Sri S. K. Roy,	"
Sri R. N. Mondal,	"
Sri B. D. Pathak,	"
Sri B. N. Mukherjee,	Honorary Secretary.

6. *Katras Coalfield Committee :*

Sri S. L. Bagda,	President.
Sri Rasiklal Pathak,	Member
Sri V. M. Ruparalia,	"
Sri K. R. Dutt,	"
Sri N. Mukherjee,	Honorary Secretary.

7. *Pench & Chanda Coalfield Committee :*

Sri Jamnadas Daga,	President
Rai Bahadur Seth Shreeram Durgaprosad,	Member
Sri Upen Chanchani,	"
Sri M. R. Trivedi,	"
Sri D. L. Khanjade,	"
Sri S. Balagopal,	Honorary Secretary.

8. *Korea & Rewa Coalfield Committee :*

Sri K. N. Srivastava,	President
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Sri K. C. Jain,	Member
Sri R. S. Gulati,	"
Sri D. P. Agarwalla,	Honorary Secretary.

#### D. SUB-COMMITTEES :

The following Sub-Committees were constituted from time to time during the year to deal with the subjects noted against them:

(a) *Sub-Committee to take necessary action in the Retrenchment Compensation in the event of Closure of Mines:*

1. Sri V. K. Poddar,
2. Sri H. N. Mookherjee,
3. Sri P. K. Nag,
4. Sri M. C. Parekh,
5. Sri S. B. Goenka,
6. Sri B. S. Shethia.

(b) *Sub-Committee to consider the proposed Symposium on the Coal Mining Industry :*

1. Sri V. K. Poddar,
2. Sri H. N. Mookherjee,
3. Sri P. K. Nag,
4. Sri M. C. Parekh,
5. Sri S. B. Goenka,
6. Sri B. S. Shethia.

(c) *Sub-Committee to consider the Royalty on Coal on Tonnage Basis :*

1. Sri V. K. Poddar,
2. Sri H. N. Mookherjee,
3. Sri P. K. Nag,
4. Sri M. C. Parekh,
5. Sri B. M. Varma,
6. Sri Manmohan Kakar.

The Committee constituted the following permanent sub-committees to consider the problems noted against each:

*I. Sub-Committee on Future Planning, Finances & Administrative matter :*

1. Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman—Convener.
2. Sri S. B. Goenka,
3. Sri Babulal M. Varma,
4. Sri Pritamlal A. Chanchani,
5. Sri K. N. Dutt,
6. Sri B. S. Shethia,
7. Sri M. M. Kakar,
8. Sri S. K. Saraogi,
9. Sri J. C. Worah,
10. Sri Sriram Goenka.

*II. Sub-Committee on Matters pertaining to Transport and State of West Bengal (Royalty, Law & Order, Mining Leases, Taxes, etc.):*

1. Sri Pritamlal A. Chanchani—Convener,
2. Sri S. B. Goenka,

3. Sri Babulal M. Varma,
4. Sri K. N. Dutt,
5. Sri Sriram Goenka,
6. Sri D. C. Singhi,
7. Sri M. C. Parekh.

*III. Sub-Committee on Coking Coal & Matters pertaining to State of Bihar :*

1. Sri S. K. Saraogi Convener,
2. Sri I. M. Thapar or his nominee,
3. Sri Babulal M. Varma,
4. Sri Pritamlal A. Chanchani,
5. Sri J. C. Worah.

*IV. Sub-Committee on Matters pertaining to Problems relating to Outlying Coalfields & States of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra :*

1. Sri M. M. Kakar Convener,
2. Sri B. S. Shethia,
3. Sri D. C. Singhi,
4. Sri B. D. Sharma.
5. Sri J. C. Worah.

*V. Sub-Committee on Labour Laws and Welfare :*

1. Sri K. N. Dutt Convener,
2. Sri N. B. Lall Singha,
3. Sri Mulchand C. Parekh,
4. Sri S. B. Goenka.

5. Sri S. N. Mullick,
6. Sri B. D. Sharma,
7. Sri J. S. Grewal,
8. Sri P. N. Chaturvedi.

*VI. Sub-Committee on Financial Laws, Taxation & Levies :*

1. Sri B. S. Shethia Convener.
2. Sri S. B. Goenka,
3. Sri M. C. Parekh,
4. Sri S. K. Saraogi,
5. Sri K. N. Jain,
6. Sri P. R. Mahadevan.

*VII. Sub-Committee on Matters pertaining to Coal Board and Coal Controller's Organization :*

1. Sri H. N. Mookherjee, Vice-Chairman—  
Convener.
2. Sri Mulchand C. Parekh,
3. Sri S. B. Goenka,
4. Sri Pritamlal A. Chanchani,
5. Sri K. N. Dutt,
6. Sri Sriram Goenka,
7. Sri R. K. Dabriwalla.

*VIII. Sub-Committee on Activising & Liason with Field Committees :*

1. Sri P. K. Nag, Jr. Vice-Chairman—  
Convener.
2. Sri D. Mondal,

3. Sri D. N. Dash,
4. Sri Sudhindranath Mukherjee,
5. Sri Vijay Shethia.

*IX. Sub-Committee on Soft Coke and Hard Coke :*

1. Sri Subhendranath Mookherjee—  
Convener,
2. Sri Dhajadhari Mondal,
3. Sri D. N. Dash.

*X. Sub-Committee on Market Research & Promotion :*

1. Sri Sriram Goenka  
Convener,
2. Sri B. M. Varma,
3. Sri Sudhindranath Mukherjee,
4. Sri M. M. Kakar,
5. Sri Vijay Shethia,
6. Sri M. D. Varma,
7. Sri B. P. Doshi.

*XI. Sub-Committee on Mining Laws & Technical Matters :*

1. Sri S. N. Mullick  
Convener,
2. Sri J. S. Grewal,
3. Sri Jabban Singh,
4. Sri R. K. Goenka,
5. Sri R. C. Patel,
6. Sri R. Biswas,

## E. FEDERATION'S REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

## AND PUBLIC BODIES

## REPRESENTATION

During the period covered by this Report, the following members represented the Federation on the various Committees and public bodies mentioned against their names:

1. *Asansol Mines Board of Health :*

Sri J. N. Mookherjee,

Sri N. B. Lall Singha.

2. *Asansol Planning Organization : Roads Committee :*

Sri Pritamlal A. Chanchani.

3. *Asansol Leprosy Relief Association-Central Leprosy Board :*

Sri T. P. Singh.

4. *Advisory Committee on Stowing :*

Lala I. M. Thapar.

5. *Advisory Committee for the Coal Survey Stations under the Central Fuel Research Institute :*

(i) Coal Survey Station, Raniganj—Sri S. N. Mullick.

(ii) Coal Survey Station, Jharia—Sri N. Mukherjee.

(iii) Coal Survey Station, Ranchi—Lala Dharam Vir  
Dhir.

(iv) Coal Survey Station, Bilaspur—Sri K. N.

Srivastava.

- (v) Coal Survey Station, Nagpur—Sri Raj Saran.
- (vi) Coal Survey Station, Jorhat—Sri S. N. Mullick.
6. *All-India Organization of Employers :*  
Sri Nirmal Kumar Jain.
7. *Allocation of Coking Coal for Steel Plants and Washeries : Standing Committee :*  
*Joint Working Committee's representative :*  
Lala Inder Mohan Thapar.  
Sri S. K. Saraogi—Alternate Member.
8. *Bihar State India Productivity Year 1966 Committee, Patna :*  
Sri Pritamlal A. Chanchani.
9. *Bihar (Jharia & Mugma) Coalfield Sub-Committee :*  
Sri N. Mukherjee.
10. *Board of Examiners under the Boiler Attendants' Rule :*  
Sri S. N. Mullick.
11. *Board of Mining Engineering under the State Council for Engineering and Technical Education, West Bengal :*  
Sri V. K. Poddar.
12. *Coal Advisory Council :*  
Sri V. K. Poddar.
13. *Coal Advisory Council : Standing Committee :*  
Sri V. K. Poddar.

14. *Coal Advisory Council: Committee on Transport & Distribution :*

Sri Pritamlal A. Chanchani.

15. *Coal Advisory Council: Committee on Productivity and Modernization of Mines :*

Sri S. N. Mullick.

16. *Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Advisory Committee, Dhanbad :*

Sri N. B. Lall Singha.

17. *Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Advisory Committee: Coalfield Sub-Committee for Chanda & Kamptee Area (Maharashtra Coalfield Sub-Committee):*

*Joint Working Committee's representative :*

Sri S. L. Daga—Principal representative.

Sri G. Srinivasan—Alternate ..

18. *Coal Mines Provident Fund—Board of Trustees :*

Sri S. K. Saraogi.

19. *Cement Distribution Committee :*

Sri V. K. Poddar.

20. *Central Hostel Committee for Gorakhpur and other Labour :*

Sri N. B. Lall Singha.

21. *Coal Mines Labour Housing Board :*

Sri Pritamlal A. Chanchani.



22. *Committee for Employment in Mines (Manganese, Gypsum, Barytes and Bouxite) :*  
Sri Dev Coomar Singhi.
23. *Dhanbad & District Leprosy Relief Association :*  
Sri A. C. Banerjee.
24. *Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee, Dhanbad :*  
Sri J. S. Grewal.
25. *Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee, Adra :*  
Sri S. B. Goenka.
26. *Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee, Bilaspur :*  
Sri Dev Coomar Singhi.
27. *District Committee on Employment, Dhanbad :*  
Sri N. Mukherjee.
28. *Eastern Railway Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee :*  
Sri S. B. Goenka.
29. *Employment Advisory Committee for the Coalfield Employment Exchange at Raniganj & Sitarampur :*  
Sri Dhajadhari Mondal.
30. *Employment Advisory Committee, Dhanbad :*  
Sri Subhendranath Mookherjee.

31. *Explosives Committee :*

Sri P. K. Nag.

32. *General Committee of the Asansol Health and Baby Welfare Society :*

Sri M. N. Datta.

33. *Gorakhpur Labour Committee :*

Sri Dev. Coomar Singhi.

34. *Hospital Committee for the Central Hospital, Asansol and Regional Hospital, Chora and T. B. Clinic, Searsole :*

Sri N. B. Lall Singha.

35. *Hospital Committee, Dhanbad, Regional Hospitals, Tisra, Katras and the T. B. Clinic, Katras :*

Sri Dinendranath Dash.

36. *Indian School of Mines Society, Dhanbad :*

Sri S. N. Mullick.

37. *Indian Standards Institution :*

(a) *Explosives and Pyrotechnics Sectional Committee, CDC 51 :*

Sri S. N. Mullick.

- (b) *Composition of Terminology and Classification of Coal Sub-Committee, CDC 14 : 4 :*

Sri S. N. Mullick.

- (c) *Composition of Panel for Tracing Cloth, CETDC 3 : P 2 :*

Sri S. N. Mullick.

38. *Import Licence Screening Committee :*

Sri B. C. Shah.

39. *Jharia Telephone Advisory Committee :*

Sri Pritamlal A. Chanchani.

40. *Joint Planning Wing of Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. and Coal Mining Machinery Plant :  
Joint Working Committee's representative :*

Sri S. N. Mullick.

41. *Joint Purchase Advisory Committee for the Supply of Footwear to the Colliery Workers :*

Sri B. S. Shethia.

42. *Local Committee for Workers' Education in the Region of Asansol :*

Sri H. N. Mookherjee.

43. *Madhya Pradesh Coalfield Sub-Committee :*

Sri D. D. Diddee.

44. *Mineral Advisory Board :*

Sri V. K. Poddar.

45. *Mining Board for West Bengal and Assam :*

Sri B. N. Banerjee.

46. *Mining Education Advisory Board for West Bengal :*

Sri S. N. Mullick.

47. *National Council for Safety in Mines :*

Sri S. N. Mullick.

48. *Port Import Advisory Committee :*

Sri J. K. Jain.

49. *Railways and Collieries Advisory Board, Dhanbad :*

Sri Dinendranath Dash.

Sri Krishan D. Chanchani.

Sri Subhendranath Mookherjee.

Sri M. N. Datta.

50. *Standing Committee on Raw Materials for the Steel Industry :*

Lala Inder Mohan Thapar.

51. *State Apprenticeship Council, West Bengal :*

Sri M. Das.

52. *St. John Ambulance Association, Dhanbad-Jharia Coalfield Centre, Dhanbad :*

Sri Subhendranath Mookherjee.

53. *Study Group to evolve a procedure for Joint Sampling of coal at destination :*

Lala Inder Mohan Thapar.

54. *Technical Committee on Verification of Coal Tubs by Weights and Measures Inspectors :*

Sri Babulal M. Varma.

55. *Tripartite Committee to go into all aspects of Supply of Protective Footwear to Workers employed in Coal Mines :*

Sri S. N. Mullick.

56. *West Bengal Coalfields Sub-Committee :*

Sri S. B. Goenka.

57. *West Bengal State Industrial Peace Committee for the Industrial Area of the District of Burdwan :*

Sri Pritamlal A. Chanchani.

## a. COAL MINES LABOUR WELFARE FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sri N. B. Lall Singha continued to represent the Federation on the above Committee, the report on the activities of which for the year 1969, as received from him, is given below :

The year 1969 was the Silver Jubilee year of the Coal Mines Welfare Organization which celebrated its Jubilee in a modest manner. The Celebrations were inaugurated by Shri Jai-sukh-lal Hathi, Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation, on 18th January 1969 when he performed the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the additional 100 bedded wing for children, maternity and isolation cases attached to the Central Hospital, Dhanbad, built at a cost of Rs. 5.25 lakhs, with a recurring expenditure of about Rs. 4 lakhs per annum.

Only two meetings of the Advisory Committee were held during the year.

During the period under report the Organization specially concentrated upon water supply schemes so as to meet the basic need of the colliery workers.

A short review of the activities of the Organization under its various schemes is given below:—

## BUDGET ESTIMATES:

As regards the budget estimates, the Committee approved of the revised estimates for 1969-70 to the extent of the sanctioned amount of Rs. 349.81 lakhs out of the General Welfare Account and Rs. 181.71 lakhs on account of housing. The Committee also approved the Budget Estimates for 1970-71 and recommended a total expenditure of Rs. 270.32

lakhs from the General Welfare Account and Rs. 172.40 lakhs from the Housing Account. Taking into account the financial situation of the Fund, particularly that of the General Welfare Account, the Committee decided to set up a Special Committee of 6 persons, with Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner as its Chairman, to go into the various aspects of the management of financial resources of the Fund and make suitable recommendations to show how best the Fund should conduct its affairs in future paying special attention to such economies which must be achieved. The Special Committee was to submit its report within sixty days of its being constituted.

#### MEDICAL FACILITIES :

All the medical institutions established by the Organization continued to function satisfactorily. The O.P.D. of the Regional Hospital, Ramagundam, started function during the year and attempts were being made to start the indoor department of the hospital very soon. Proposals for improvements of some of the departments of the Central Hospital, Dhanbad, such as pathology, radiology, eye and E.N.T., anaesthesia and O.T. etc. also remained under examination.

Proposal for air-conditioning the Operation Theatre Block of Central Hospital, Kalla, Asansol, was approved. A token provision was made in the budget estimates for 1970-71 for construction of a Cancer Block at Central Hospital, Kalla, Asansol. A sum of Rs. 40,000/- only as recommended by the Finance Sub-Committee was approved for providing automatic main-failure generating set for Central Hospital, Kalla, Asansol. A proposal for supply of spectacles and dentures free of cost for the use of the coal miners, who were involved in accidents in mines, from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund was approved.



A Special Committee was formed to consider the proposal for gradual expansion of the capacity of two Central Hospital at Dhanbad and Asansol to the proposed 800 beds according to the phased programme of the Master Plan and to keep in abeyance construction of more Central Hospitals in the light of this development.

During the last financial year ended in March 1969 about 27000 patients and about 1,24,000 patients got indoor and outdoor treatment at each of the Central Hospitals at Dhanbad and Asansol.

The Advisory Committee also considered the policy in regard to setting up more regional hospitals in coalfield areas and for expansion of existing medical institutions and decided that the aforesaid Sub-Committee should go into details and submit its recommendations in this regard to the Committee.

The Committee considered the proposal for extension of free-medical facilities to the colliery employees getting a pay upto Rs. 730/- per month from the medical institutions of the Fund and appointed a Sub-Committee to go into the matter and see that persons who used to get the benefits before the Wage Board award were not deprived of the facilities and, if so, the ceiling limit should be raised.

#### FAMILY PLANNING :

Extensive propaganda for making people aware of the need for family planning was one of the most important activities of the family planning department of the Organization. The family planning unit arranged mass and group meetings in order to educate people about the advantages of family planning. Lectures and film shows on family planning works were also arranged at different collieries all over the coalfield areas. Vasectomy camps were also organized at different collieries all over the coalfield areas.



Free advice on family planning continued to be given and contraceptives supplied free of cost to all colliery workers at the Fund's Medical Institutions. Some urban and rural family planning clinics were also opened. The scheme for payment of grants-in-aid to colliery owners for family planning work continued to function.

In order to assess the work done on family planning a team of officers, consisting of Dr. H. P. Banerjee, Asst. Commissioner (F.P.) of the Government of India, Dr. N. K. Basu, Regional Director, Family Planning Eastern Zone, Calcutta, and Dr. A. K. Deb, Addl. Director of Health Services (F.P.) of Government of West Bengal, visited the colliery areas in the Raniganj Coalfield and were very much impressed by the work done in this regard. The team also made certain suggestions for opening a few more well-equipped Family Planning Units in these areas.

#### ANTI-MALARIA SECTION: Spraying & Filaria Survey:

The Anti-Malaria Section of the Organization continued its work throughout the year in the form of spraying of wall surface, clean weeding, drainage and oiling etc. Blood smears of fever cases were collected in different coalfields and examined to study the degree of parasitaemia.

*Filaria Survey:* Anti-larval work to prevent culicine breedings in the form of clean weeding, drainage and oiling was carried out all over the coalfield areas as usual.

#### T. B. FACILITIES:

The Domiciliary T.B. treatment scheme which was introduced in all the coalfields in the country was working satisfactorily. A total number of 1295 seats have been pro-

vided under the scheme and a total number of nearly 2500 new patients are getting the advantage of the scheme annually.

The scheme of payment of subsistence allowance to dependents of T. B. patients, who were undergoing treatment in the beds provided for and reserved by the Fund, continued to function.

Under the above two schemes subsistence allowance was sanctioned to a total number of 666 cases upto June 1969.

#### WATER-SUPPLY SCHEME:

In order to solve the drinking water problem in the coal-fields, the Coal Mines Welfare Organization is giving subsidy to the colliery owners for water-supply schemes and sinking surface wells.

A brief review of the water-supply schemes in the coal-fields is given below:

(a) DAMODAR RE-ORGANIZATION SCHEME: This scheme estimated to cost Rs. 75 lakhs has been taken up for implementation by the Jharia Water Board with substantial financial assistance from the Coal Mines Welfare Fund. Almost all the collieries in the Jharia Coalfield will be covered by this scheme. Out of the estimated cost of Rs. 75 lakhs the Coal Mines Welfare Organization has offered to pay a sum of Rs. 40,37,500 by way of the grants-in-aid and Rs. 14,62,500 by way of loan to the Jharia Water Board for implementation of the above scheme. So far the Organization has paid to the Jharia Water Board a sum of Rs. 20,86,000/- in the shape of grants-in-aid and Rs. 12 lakhs in the shape of loan. The scheme was reported to have been completed to the extent of 45%.

(b) WATER-SUPPLY SCHEME AT SOUTH KARANPURA GROUP OF COLLIERIES.

A scheme prepared by the National Coal Development Corporation Ltd. for their South Karanpura group of collieries was completed by the colliery management.

(c) WATER SUPPLY SCHEME AT LAIKDHI DEEP COLLIERY.

A scheme prepared by M/s. Andrew Yule & Co. for their Chanch Colliery was completed.

(d) INTEGRATED WATER SUPPLY SCHEME FOR RANIGANJ COALFIELD.

A scheme estimated to cost Rs. 3,54,00,000/- (for the 1st part of the scheme) for supply of water to collieries in the Raniganj Coalfield as prepared by the Government of West Bengal has been considered by the Coal Mines Welfare Organization and a sum of Rs. 60 lakhs was paid to them towards its implementation. The scheme was reported to have been completed to the extent of 60%.

(e) WATER-SUPPLY SCHEME OF M/S. SHAW WALLACE & CO. LTD. OF PENCH VALLEY COALFIELD.

This Scheme is for Rs. 3,72,632/-. The scheme has been completed. A sum of Rs. 1,48,561/- was paid to the colliery company. The company has submitted a supplementary claim for Rs. 2,16,924/- for extension of the scheme. A sum of Rs. 47,000/- was paid to the colliery for an extended scheme of water supply.

(f) INTEGRATED WATER-SUPPLY SCHEME AT BANKI SURA  
KACHAR, KORBA & BISKAMPUR

The National Coal Development Corporation have submitted the scheme estimated to cost Rs. 55 lakhs. The scheme was completed.

(g) WATER-SUPPLY SCHEME AT KOTHAGUDIUM COLLIERIES.

M/s. Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. have submitted Rs. 3,58,000/- representing 20% of the estimated cost was sanctioned and paid to the colliery co.

(i) *Water-supply scheme at Belampalli*

M/s. Singareni Colliery Co. have submitted the scheme estimated to cost Rs. 4,86,430/-. The scheme was under scrutiny.

(ii) In addition to the above scheme, the following emergency water-supply schemes submitted by M/s. Bird & Co. have been approved and 25% of the estimated cost of each of the schemes was paid to colliery co. :—

- (a) Mudidih Colliery estimated to cost Rs. 98,703/-
- (b) Katras Colliery estimated to cost Rs. 86,773.45
- (c) Loyahad Colliery estimated to cost Rs. 27,637.78
- (d) Saltore Colliery estimated to cost Rs. 32,584.06
- (e) Saunda Colliery estimated to cost Rs. 66,765.77

(iii) Besides the above, the following water-supply schemes were completed and payment already made by way of financial assistance from the organization as admissible :—

- (a) Integrated Water-supply Scheme Bokaro Kargali of M/s. N.C.D.C. Ltd. estimated to cost Rs. 39 lakhs.

- (b) Water Supply Scheme at Sitalpur Colliery of M/s. Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. estimated to cost of Rs. 1,33,000/-.
- (c) Water Supply Scheme at Poniat Group of Collieries of M/s. Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. estimated to cost Rs. 4,87,000/-.
- (d) Water Supply Scheme at Moira Colliery of M/s. Western Bengal Coalfield Ltd. estimated to cost Rs. 78,000/-.
- (e) Water Supply Scheme at Chinakuri & Parbelia submitted by M/s. Andrew Yule & Co. has been completed.

(iv) SINKING OF WELLS ON 50% SUBSIDY BASIS

So far 428 wells under the scheme were sanctioned for construction at different collieries, out of which 180 wells were completed and the remaining wells were under construction.

The Committee also considered the proposal for payment of subsidies for water supply schemes at Parbelia Colliery belonging to Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. and approved it subject to the condition that the Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner or his representative would in future make a periodical check up on all such schemes. Payment of subsidies for water supply schemes at a few more collieries in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Jharia Coalfields was also approved.

EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

In the year under report, 62 Multipurpose Institutes, 64 Women Welfare Centres, 66 Adult Education Centres and 163



Feeder Adult Education Centres continued to function as usual in various part of different coalfields. Cinema shows and other variety entertainments at all these centres also remained in operation. A total number of 921 male workers became literate up to the quarter ending June, 1969.

#### CHILDREN'S EDUCATION ALLOWANCE:

Government sanction was received for the continuance of the scheme for grant of Children's Education Allowance to Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools during the year 1969-70. The expenditure on this account is not to exceed Rs. 10,000=00 per annum.

#### RUNNING OF SPECIAL TRAINS FOR EXCURSION-CUM-STUDY TOUR OF COLLIERY WORKERS:

Government sanction was received for incurring a non-recurring expenditure not exceeding Rs. 1,01,000=00 for running two special trains—one to the North and the other to the South during the year 1969-70 for Bharat Darshan Tour of Colliery workers.

The 12th Bharat Darshan Yatra Special Train carrying a party of 510 workers from coal, mica and iron ore mines steamed off from the V.I.P. Platform of Dhanbad Rly. Station on the 6th September 1969. The train visited the places of historical and religious importance such as Varanasi, Lucknow, Hardwar, Amritsar, Nangal, New Delhi, Mathura, Agra, Jalgaon, Bombay and Allahabad.

Owing to the tight financial position of the Organization the special train to South India for miners on 27-12-69 was postponed.

**COAL MINES FATAL AND SERIOUS ACCIDENT SCHEME:**

Under the Coal Mines Fatal and Serious Accident Benefit Scheme, lump sum grants and monthly allowance to the widows of the deceased workers and scholarships to the school-going children of the victims are paid. In the year under report, up to the month of September 1969 sanction for the payment of grant/scholarship was accorded to the dependents of deceased workers as noted below:—

- In 8 cases in January, 1969.
- In 14 cases in February and March, 1969.
- In 18 cases in April, 1969.
- In 7 cases in May, 1969.
- In 5 cases in June, 1969.
- In 17 cases in July, 1969.
- In 11 cases in August, 1969.
- In 8 cases in September, 1969.
- In 2 cases in October, 1969.
- In 15 cases in November, 1969.

In addition to the above, a monthly scholarship of the value of Rs. 10/- p.m. was also sanctioned to school-going children of the deceased workers from the date of accident till he/she attained the age of 15 years or was married whichever earlier subject to the condition that the beneficiary continued to attend the school during this period and showed satisfactory progress.

**Co-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT:**

During the year ended on the 31st March, 1969 the total paid-up share capital, working capital and turnover of the sale of controlled and non-controlled commodities of the 12



Wholesale/Central Co-operative Stores of the colliery workers sponsored by the Coal Mines Welfare Organization was as under:—

- (a) Share capital—Rs. 37.19 lakhs.
- (b) Working capital—Rs. 126.58 lakhs.
- (c) Turnover of sale proceeds—Rs. 442.45 lakhs.

In order to give highest importance to the mobilization of the purchasing power of the Consumers' Co-operatives and the promotion of the agricultural industry during the 4th Five-Year Plan, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation had recommended the creation of an "Inventory Losses Fund" by the State Co-operative Federations of the Wholesale Central Consumers' Co-operative Store to safe-guard against losses arising out of sale of agricultural commodities. Necessary action to create such a fund for Consumers' Co-operative sponsored by the Organization was taken.

#### HOUSING:

To tackle the housing problems in the coalfields areas, the Organization has taken up a number of housing scheme. The progress of the different schemes was as under:

	Target.	No. completed.	No. under construction.
1. New Housing Scheme.	48162	34013	4936
2. Low Cost Housing.			
houses	20000	15119(H)	4147 (H)
barracks	417	115(B)	66 (B)
3. Build Your Own House Scheme.	1000	9	5

Besides the above, the cases for construction of houses under the township scheme of the Organization are under consideration at the following collieries:

1. Bargolai Colliery in Assam Coalfield— 250 houses
2. Nunidih and Gharkachar Colliery— 200 "

A further proposal for construction of houses under the scheme at Kapuria and Bahupeth is also under consideration.

#### GAMES AND SPORTS:

The amounts noted below were sanctioned for organizing coalfields sports during the year 1969-70:

(a) Chanda coalfield	Rs. 2500.00
(b) Pench Valley "	Rs. 4000.00
(c) Korea "	Rs. 6750.00
(d) V. P. "	Rs. 6000.00
(e) A. P. "	Rs. 12000.00
(f) Jharia "	Rs. 18000.00
(g) Raniganj "	Rs. 18000.00
(h) Sambalpur & Talcher coalfields	Rs. 2000.00 each
(i) Bokaro and Ramgarh- Karanpura "	Rs. 3500.00 each
(j) Giridih "	Rs. 1000.00
(k) Assam "	Rs. 2000.00

In addition, a sum of Rs. 2250/- was sanctioned for organizing sports during 1969-70 at Umrer, Singarauli, Ghoradangni, Kamptee, Barud, Domnara and Korba collieries.

Arrangements for holding the All-India Coalfield Football Tournament were made at Central Saunda Colliery in the Hazaribagh coal-field. The Karam Chand Thapar collieries will act as hosts and the tournament will be held in the month of February 1970.

In the state of M.P. zonal sports were also organized at collieries in different regions.

#### b. ASANSOLE MINES BOARD OF HEALTH

Shri N. B. Lall Singha continued to represent the Federation on the above Board during the year 1969, a report on the activities of which as received from him, is given below:

Shri G. S. Banerjee, I.A.S., District Magistrate, Burdwan remained Chairman from January, 1969 to August, 1969 and Shri T. C. Dutt, I.A.S. presided at the meeting of the Board held on 26.9.69 and remained Chairman throughout the rest of the year. Shri N. B. Lall Singha was Vice-Chairman upto 26 July, 1969 and Dr. S. R. Biswas from 26 July 1969 (afternoon) upto the end of the year. Shri P. R. Bernaila, M.A., B.Com., continued as Secretary throughout the year.

The post of the Health Officer, was held by Dr. C. R. Gupta, M.B., D.T.M., upto 14.11.69. Dr. P. Chatterjee, M.B., D.P.H. took over charge with effect from 14.11.69.

The Board held 13 Ordinary and 8 Special Meetings during the year.

The Board finalized the Budget Estimates for the year 1969-70 the main features of which are as follows:

Estimated opening balance,	Rs. 1,00,000=00	Estimated Expenditure	Rs. 13,73,341=00
Total Estimated Receipts	Rs. 13,10,118=00	Estimated—closing balance	Rs. 36,777=00
	<u>Rs. 14,10,118=00</u>		<u>Rs. 14,10,118=00</u>

The rate of fee to be assessed under Section 28(i)(a) of the West Bengal Mining Settlements (Health & Welfare) Act, 1964 has been fixed at Rs. 6/- per 100 tonnes less a rebate of 00.50P. per 100 tonnes if payment is made within 30 days of the presentation of the Bill.

Vide Notification No. PH/2021/6M-3/69 dated 27.6.69 the Board was reconstituted by the Government. The District Magistrate, Burdwan and Dr. S. R. Biswas were appointed as the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman respectively of the reconstituted Board.

The first meeting of the reconstituted Board was held on 26.7.69. The Chairman delivered an address to the members of the Board mentioning inter alia important matters for the information of the Board members.

The Board reconstituted the following Committees:—

*Finance Committee:*

1. Dr. S. R. Biswas.
2. Addl. District Magistrate, Asansol.
3. Shri Kalyan Shankar Roy, M.P.
4. Dr. Tarak Nath Chakraborty, M.L.A.
5. Dr. Lokesh Ghosh, M.L.A.

6. Shri N. B. Lall Singha.
7. Sri W. J. Jameson.
8. Shri Jacob Tobias.

*Building Committee :*

1. Dr. S. R. Biswas.
2. Shri Nandlal Jalan.
3. Director, Asansol Planning Organization.
4. Shri Jacob Tobias.

*Tender & Estimate Committee :*

1. Dr. S. R. Biswas.
2. Shri Robin Chatterjee.
3. Shri Jacob Tobias.
4. The Health Officer, A.M.B.H.
5. The Secretary, A.M.B.H.

Enhanced dearness allowance as per Government memo. No. 1098-F dated 29.3.69 was granted with effect from 27.3.69 to the employees of the Board.

The Asansol Mines Board of Health Employees' Union was recognised by the Board.

Dr. P. Chatterjee an officer of the West Bengal Health Services was interviewed by the Board and was appointed as Health Officer and he joined with effect from 14.11.69.

Puja advance was paid to the employees as usual.

Gratuity Rules were liberalized so far as Class IV employees are concerned. Five years' of satisfactory qualifying service will now entitle a Class IV servant to gratuity at the

rate of 2 months' pay for each completed year of service at the rate of last pay drawn.

The reconstituted Finance Committee considered the Budget for the year 1969-70 and revised the Budget for 1969-70. The main features of the Revised Budget are as follows:

Estimated opening balance.	Rs. 1,00,000=00	Estimated Expenditure	Rs. 16,32,911/-
Total estimated receipts.	Rs. 16,10,118=00	Closing balance	Rs. 77,207/-
Grand Total :	Rs. 17,10,118=00		Rs. 17,10,118=00

On the proposal by the Vice-Chairman the Board granted 1/2 (half) month's basic pay as special Festival Advance to all employees whose salaries are upto or below the scale of Rs. 200-400.

A sub-committee consisting of Dr. S. R. Biswas, Dr. Lokesh Ghosh, W.J. Jameson was constituted to submit a recommendation for appointment of panel lawyers for the Board's legal work. The committee duly submitted its recommendations and action was taken accordingly.

A sub-committee consisting of Vice-Chairman, Dr. H. N. Mukherjee, Mrs. Anima Chakraborty was constituted to examine the matter of payment of Rs. 29,000/- (Rupees twenty nine thousand) only to Asansol Leprosy Board as grant-in-aid along with the Integration Scheme submitted by the Asansol Planning Organization and to submit its recommendation. The sub-committee submitted an interim recommendation and action was taken accordingly.

Shri Nani Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Health Department, Government of West Bengal, Calcutta



paid a visit to this organization on 28.11.69 and important matters were brought to his personal notice and discussed. He was kind enough to promise his full attention.

The question of the Board's bungalow, presently in the occupation of the Civil Defence Authorities, was taken up with the appropriate authorities for a quick settlement in the interest of the Board.

The question of realization of outstanding dues of Royalty cess amounting to Rs. 9,93,702-00 was taken up again with the State Government.

Other routine activities were carried on satisfactorily.

#### C. CENTRAL HOSTEL COMMITTEE

In the year under report two meetings of the Central Hostel Committee, on which the Federation was represented by Sri N. B. Lall Singha, were held in which the following matters, amongst others, were discussed and decisions taken on them:

1. Appointment of a Superintendent in the Miners' Hostel at Sitaldasji Selected Colliery was approved.

2. It was decided that the hostels which are not observing the procedure laid down by the Central Hostel Committee will be derecognized. Accordingly the Miners Hostels at Selected Searsole, Kustore/Alkusa, Jamadoba, Digwadih and Sijua collieries were derecognized.

3. It was decided to approach the Mines Boards of Health to enforce observance of standards laid down by the



Central Hostel Committee by the unauthorized miners' hostels within their jurisdiction as the Central Hostel Committee had no statutory powers to take legal action against such unauthorized hostels.

A committee was set up by the Government to survey the living conditions of the coal miners. The report submitted by the committee reveals that with an increase in their earnings, the miners spend more money and the use of alcohol has increased considerably. The report also says that the use of alcohol is much less in the miners' hostels, where saving is also much better.

Steps have been taken for better supervision of the hostels to bring about an improvement in quality of food and discipline among miners leading to an improvement in their character and habits.

#### d. WEST BENGAL COALFIELD SUB-COMMITTEE

Sri S. B. Goenka continued to represent the Federation on the above Sub-Committee, a report on the activities of which for the year 1969, as received from him, is given below:

Proper arrangements were made during the year for supply of water to the Chora Regional Hospital. Applications from collieries for subsidies for sinking wells were, in most cases, sanctioned. Requests for subsidies for water supply scheme at collieries were sanctioned in deserving cases.

The construction of a Regional Hospital and Staff quarters at Chinakuri in Raniganj Coalfield was approved. Proposals submitted by the Federation's representative, Sri S. B.

Goenka, for opening of an Ayurvedic Hospital and for considering applications for opening homeopathic dispensary at the collieries were approved; but no final decision has yet been taken by the Government in the matter. A proposal for construction of a cancer block at the Central Hospital, Kalia, Asansol was approved. A decision was taken for the construction of a Regional Hospital at Pandaveswar.

The application of several collieries for grants-in-aid towards provision of zonal sports grounds and also open lungs and children's parks were sanctioned.

It was noted at several meetings that there was delay by the colliery owners in construction of the houses which had been sanctioned by the C.M.L.W.O. It was suggested that measures should be taken by the colliery owners to speed up completion of the houses allotted to their respective collieries.

It was suggested at a meeting that steps should be taken as in the past for eradication of mosquitos which had increased in the coal mining areas.

c. ZONAL RAILWAYS USERS' CONSULTATIVE  
COMMITTEE, EASTERN RAILWAY, CALCUTTA

Given below is a summary of the proceedings, relating particularly to coal, of the above Committee, received from the Federation's representative on the Committee, Sri S. B. Goenka.

It being suggested that supply of open wagons (empties) should be made only to collieries having mechanized loading arrangements, the Administration stated as follows:

Collieries fitted with mechanized loading plants are always supplied with open wagons/Boxes. The Box wagons have gone a long way towards solving the problem of opens required for loading by the mechanical loading collieries. In fact, the pace of mechanization has been slower than anticipated. Since the bulk of the loading from the mechanized collieries is done in the shape of Box rakes, the incidence of supplying covered wagons against open allotments in piecemeal has, as a natural corollary, been reduced to the minimum. The figures available for the months of July to September/69 and discussed at the Railway and Coal Advisory Board meeting on 29.10.69 indicate that such incidence were only confined to patratu, Andal, Sitarampur and Barakar Depots where also the number of wagons in a month was very insignificant as compared with the loading.

In railway operation, however, supply of covered/Box wagons against the allotment of opens/box rakes could not be eliminated and had to be resorted to in exceptional situations when the Railways were faced with the alternative of heavy short supplies to the collieries which would also present another problem to the collieries.

Railways were always mindful that the collieries fitted with mechanized loading plant were not unnecessarily put to difficulties by supply of covered/box wagons.

Sri S. B. Goenka suggested that an over-bridge should be constructed at Andal Station in view of heavy vehicular traffic in the area. The Railway Administration agreed to consider it provided the State Government was prepared to provide an approach road for the same. The Railway Administration expressed its keen desire to construct an over-bridge at Kalipahari level crossing on G. T. Road provided the State Government sponsored a scheme to and bear their share of expenses as per extant rules.

It was pointed out to the Railway Administration that there was inadequate accommodation in the Coalfield express. The Railway Administration stated that the loads of the said trains have been suitably augmented by attaching additional coaches.

It was stated by the Railway Administration that recent sample survey in regard to issue of cheques by the Accounts Office showed that there was no hold-up in the issue of cheques by the Accounts Office. It was also stated that settlement of claims have already been speeded up.

It was also stated by the Railway Administration that steps would be taken to improve train lighting in Black Diamond Express and other important trains.

#### f. THE DIVISIONAL RAILWAY USERS' CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY, ADRA

Sri S. B. Goenka continued to represent the Federation on the above Committee at Adra. A summary is given below of the activities of the Committee, relating to coal, during the year.

The Railway administration assured the Coal Industry at a meeting that every possible effort was being adopted to supply the collieries with suitable and serviceable wagons by the Mechanical (Carr. & Wagon) department. As far as loading of general merchandise was concerned, clean wagons are always supplied to the consignors for loading. But the steel plants handed over the wagons in the exchange yard and wagons found with left-over materials cannot be returned

back to steel plants owing to operational difficulties. Necessary instructions were issued to all steel plants within the Adra Division to ensure that Box empties were released after unloading the contents fully.

A passenger shuttle between Santaldih Washery and Bhaga has been introduced from 1.10.1969. The provision of a road overbridge at Ranchi was sanctioned by the Railway authorities; but the approach roads, to be constructed by the State Government, it was learnt, would take some more time.

The electrification of Kotshila station has been included in the works programme for 1970-71. The Railway administration, it was learnt, had tightened up the security arrangements to prevent pilferage of coal.

#### g. BIHAR COALFIELD SUB-COMMITTEE (JHARIA & MUGMA)

Sri N. Mukherjee continued to represent the Federation on the above Committee, a report on the activities of which for the year 1969, as received from him, is given below:

Two meetings were held on 23.7.69 and 13.9.69 in the office chamber of Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad, who is the Chairman. Sri N. Mukherjee represented the Federation on the above Sub-Committee. At the instance of the Chairman, it was decided that the general principle should be that whenever a colliery company came forward and volunteered to supplement the water supply scheme it should be sanctioned after the technical scrutiny.

Applications for grant to entitle workers for children's education subsidies to coal companies for water supply and



other welfare schemes and improvement of hospitals and buildings of the Organisation were considered and approved in all deserving cases.

#### b. COAL SURVEY STATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, JHARIA.

Sri N. Mukherjee continued to represent the Federation on the above Committee; a report on the activities of which for the year 1969, as received from him, is given below:

The twenty-second meeting of the above Committee was held in the Central Fuel Research Institute on 18.9.69 under the Chairmanship of Sri B. H. Engineer, Sri N. Mukherjee representing the Federation at the meeting.

The analysis of deep bore hole cores of Sudandih Kapuria, Monidih, Jharma, Parbatpur, Mahal blocks and results of physical and chemical survey of some coal seams were discussed in detail and the future programme approved.

## II. PRODUCTION

### A. COAL PRODUCTION

Coal production during the calender year of 1969 was 78.37 million tonnes as against 74.92 million tonnes during the previous year. The increase of about 3.45 million tonnes indicates gradual recovery of the industrial development in the country after several years' recession.

As mentioned in the report of the previous years, the initial target of 98.33 million tonnes being found to be too high was reduced to 90 million tonnes at the time of the mid-term appraisal and later to 76 million tonnes. The private sector collieries invested huge amounts of money to ensure a planned growth and create matching capacities but the expected demand did not materialize and even the modest production of 70.3 million tonnes at the end of the Third Plan period i.e. in March 1966 was found to be excessive. This was largely due to the increasing dieselization of the railway locomotives. This set-back in the growth of Coal Industry has, for the last several years, posed a serious problem and its solution even now appears elusive.

Although coal is the most important mineral in the country and although most of the industries are by and large coal-based, the percentage of increase of coal production has been only about 50% during the last ten years i.e. 1960 to 1969 as will be evident from the following table:—

Year.	Production (in million tonnes)
1960	51.77
1961	56.10
1962	61.54
1963	66.91
1964	63.99
1965	69.45
1966	70.53
1967	71.14
1968	74.92
1969	78.37



The ratio of coal to other non-coal minerals in respect of internal consumption fell from 64:36 during 1960 to 53:47 during 1965, evidently owing to a drastic reduction in the use of coal in a few major industries like ferro-alloy, fertilizer, textile including cotton textile and petroleum refineries. In spite of the huge internal market, the expansion of coal mining has been only 95% during the 15 years ending 1965 against 151% in other industries and 215% in the non-coal mineral sector during the corresponding period. The slow growth of coal mining in the country has been due to loss of the export market and the development of substitute fuels like petroleum, hydel electricity, etc. It is unfortunate that in spite of a huge installed capacity, the expansion of coal mining is lagging behind owing to the absence of a rational fuel policy and the misconceived decision of the Railways to go ahead with their dieselization scheme in spite of the note of warning sounded by the Energy Survey of India Committee and the Ministry of Mines and Metals.

The demand for coal being a derived one will evidently pick up only when a general revival of industrial activity takes place and when the investment climate improves and the economic recovery gains sufficient momentum. Signs of revival of economy indicated at the beginning of the Fourth Plan period, however, came as a silver lining. Commensurate with the objective of achieving an overall rate of growth of 5 to 6 per cent with a matching growth rate of 8 to 10 per cent in the industrial production, programme of development of various key industries has been envisaged in the Fourth Plan period (1969-74). Accordingly the requirement of coal at the end of the Fourth Plan period has been assessed at 93.2 million tonnes comprising 25.44 million tonnes of coking coal and 67.75 million tonnes of non-coking and blendable coal. But the requirement of coking coal might be substantially lower than the above estimate and according to an

authoritative study the requirement of coal by the steel industry might not be more than 21.75 million tonnes of coking coal. Regarding additional investment which would be required for maintaining the present level of production and for stepping up the overall production by about 23/24 million tonnes by 1973-74, it has been assessed, the order of investment needed is estimated to be about Rs. 113 crores. In the public sector a provision for about Rs. 64 crores has been made in the Fourth Plan.

As indicated earlier, the sharp fall in demand during the Third Plan and subsequent Plan period which led to progressive lowering of targets, has put a large number of collieries, which invested in expansion to extreme hardship, and in consequence the stocks at pit-heads have gone up to more than 6 million tonnes. It is an admitted fact that stacking of coal involves blocking of capital, deterioration and loss of capital, double handling and fracture of coal in the process of stacking and recovery besides risk of spontaneous combustion.

## B. ASSESSMENT OF COAL DEMAND DURING THE FOURTH PLAN.

At the meeting of the Coal Advisory Council held on 15 November 1969 at New Delhi under the chairmanship of Dr. Triguna Sen, Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals & Mines and Metals, the estimated coal demand at the end of the Fourth Plan period i.e. by 1973-74 (with a plan gap for 3 years) was further reduced to 93.20 million tonnes from the earlier estimate of 101.32 million tonnes. This would how-

ever, be subject to a periodic review by the working group of the Council. The new estimate places coking coal requirements at 25.44 million tonnes compared with the 1968 estimate of 28.44 million tonnes and the total non-coking, including blendable coal at 67.75 million tonnes compared with 72.88 million tonnes. Among central priorities for non-coking coal, the requirements of the Railways have been retained at 13.40 million tonnes but those of thermal power stations reduced from 21.48 million tonnes to 20 million tonnes.

The export target has been maintained at 0.62 million tonnes but the requirements of the cement industry have been reduced from 6.60 million tonnes to 5.50 million tonnes and of the fertilizer industry from 2.11 million tonnes to 2 million tonnes. In the State priorities sector the demand for soft coke has been scaled down to 4.40 million tonnes from the earlier estimate of 5.13 million tonnes.

## COKING COAL

The demand for coking coal, comprising that for steel plants and for merchant coke ovens including Sindri Fertilizers, has been reduced under both heads. For steel plants it has come down from 24 million tonnes to 21.74 million tonnes and for merchant coke ovens from 4.35 million tonnes to 3.70 million tonnes.

The requirement of coal for steel is related to the quantity of hot metal that may be produced. The hot metal production is expected to increase from the present level of 8.50

million tonnes to 13.87 million tonnes per annum by 1973-74 as detailed below:

Name of plant	Estimated level of hot metal production during 1969-70 (in million tonnes)	Level of hot metal pro- duction expected to be achieved by 1973-74
Rourkela	... 1.44	1.90
Bhilai	... 2.30	0.60
Durgapur	... 1.54	2.00
Bokaro	... —	2.74
TISCO	... 1.97	2.07
IISCO	... 1.22	1.46
Secondary producers	—	0.10

The hot metal production has been projected on the basis of the capacity of the existing blast furnaces and furnaces scheduled to be set up during the plan period, making due allowance for the down time and all normal variations.

Based on the rate of coal supplies to steel plants during the first half of the current year, the coal supplies for the entire year work out to about 13.2 million tonnes, comprising 3.4 million tonnes of raw coal, 8.42 million tonnes of washed coking coal and 1.3 million tonnes of raw blendable coal. The corresponding raw coal equivalent of the coking coal consumption is 15.30 million tonnes.

However, the coal requirement during the second half year is expected to be comparatively lower, owing to the reported

damages to a number of coke ovens in TISCO and because production in the other plants has of late come down considerably on account of labour trouble. In view of this, the coal consumption during 1969-70 may be of the order of 14.30 million tonnes only.

The quantity of coal required depends upon the quantity of ore, the quantity of coal, the preparation of raw materials and the size of the blast furnace. The norms adopted for these estimates are: 1.29 for Bhilai; 1.45 for Rourkela; 1.22 for Bokaro; 1.30 for TISCO; 1.47 for Durgapur and 1.50 for IISCO.

#### PLANT OPERATIONS

The operation limitations of the steel plants require that the coke oven batteries be operated even when the blast furnaces are under temporary shut-down. Therefore, in addition to the hot metal programme and norms of consumption, oven programme is taken into account while determining the future coal requirements. On this basis, the "coal as charged" demand of the steel plants is expected to rise to 16.70 million tonnes by 1973-74. The corresponding raw coking coal equivalent works out to 25.38 million tonnes. The revised linkage of coal supplies to steel plants made by the Committee on rational and equitable distribution of coking coal will reduce this requirement to 21.74 million tonnes.

Further, coal estimates made on the assumption that Durgapur will use 15 per cent, Bhilai 5 per cent and other steel plants except Bokaro 10 per cent of blendable coal in the coal blend place the requirements of blendable coal for steel plants at 1.24 million tonnes.



The requirement of hard coke for foundry and other uses depends on the availability of pig iron. It is estimated that during the new plan period, the existing by-product and beehive coke ovens will continue production at the present level, while the Durgapur coke oven plant may commission their 5th and 6th batteries during the Fourth Plan.

The hard coke availability, which is presently about 1.2 million tonnes, would be about 1.50 million tonnes in 1973-74, which would be produced from 3.52 million tonnes of coking coal and 0.12 million tonnes of blendable coal. The surplus hard coke released by the steel plants to the market when their blast furnaces are down for re-rolling etc. would augment supplies from merchant coke ovens.

The requirements of the Sindri Fertilizers for the manufacture of coke oven gas are expected to continue at the existing level of 0.18 million tonnes of coking coal and 0.18 million tonnes of blendable coal per annum.

#### RAILWAY'S DEMAND

The Railways are presently the largest single consumer of coal and their present consumption is of the order of 16.20 million tonnes (including captive power stations). On account of their programme of dieselization, the coal demand of the Railways would progressively go down during the plan period. The Railways have estimated that their future coal requirements on the basis of the number of broad-gauge, metre-gauge and narrow-gauge steam locomotives that are expected to be in operation would be 1800, 1100 and 800 tonnes per year respectively.

They have decided not to introduce new locomotives after

1970-71 and those steam locomotives which would be in operation would be allowed to waste out. According to the estimates furnished by them, their coal demand would drop by 0.2 million tonnes annually upto 1970-71, 1 million tonnes in the next year and 0.8 million tonnes annually thereafter. Thus, the Railways' coal requirements by 1973-74 would be of the order of 13.40 million tonnes.

The consumption of coal by thermal power stations during 1968-69 was 12.2 million tonnes (including 2.06 million tonnes of middlings). The present installed capacity of coal-based power stations is about 5.5 million kw. The Fourth Plan programme envisages an increase in the installed power generation capacity of coal-based power stations, after allowing for retirement of 0.4 million kw. of obsolete plants, to about 10.93 million kw.

New schemes proposed to be taken up for implementation during the Fourth Plan will account for 1,075 million kw., the balance being due to existing projects. The coal requirements by 1973-74 have been assessed at about 28.48 million tonnes (including 6.60 million tonnes of middlings).

#### THERMAL POWER

In working out the coal requirements for thermal power stations, the norm of 3 tones of coal per annum per kw. of installed capacity has been adopted (except in the case of the Kerba thermal power station where owing to inferior coal quality and load pattern, the norm adopted is 5 tonnes of coal per kw. of installed capacity). The norms are in conformity with the experience gained in the working of large power stations during the last five years and in accordance with the suggested estimate of 4000 million tonnes per kw.



of installed capacity as the maximum-effective capacity of thermal stations. On this basis, it has been assessed that the total coal requirements of thermal power stations, excluding middlings, may go up from about 10.2 million tonnes in 1968-69 to 21.88 million tonnes by 1973-74.

The demand for coal by the coal-based thermal power stations by 1973-74 may be taken as 20.00 million tonnes. This will be subject to periodical review.

The availability of washery middlings for thermal generation should rise to 6.60 million tonnes in 1973-74. Any deficit in middlings availability would, however, require to be compensated by the supply of raw coal.

Coal is being exported to Burma, Ceylon, Nepal and Bhutan, the level of present exports being about 0.40 million tonnes. The existing level of export of 0.3 million tonnes to Burma is expected to continue during the plan period, but the present export of 0.16 million tonnes to Ceylon is likely to fall to the level of 40,000 tonnes per annum after 1970-71 in view of the Ceylon Railways dieselization programme.

There are potential markets for Indian coal in Japan, East Asia and West Africa. Broadly speaking, the total quantity of non-coking coal that may be exported in 1973-74 is 0.62 million tonnes.

The demand for coal, separately for coking, blendable and non-coking varieties, for 1969-70 and by the end of the Fourth Plan period as assessed by the Planning Group on Coal is indicated in the following statement:—

**Statement showing the Demand for Coal in 1968-69 (Estimated Actuals), 1969-70  
(Estimated) and 1973-74 (Estimated).**

(Figures in million tonnes)

Name of Unit	Estimated demand in 1969-70		Estimated demand by 1973-74	
	Demand in 1968-69	As esti- mated in 1968	Revised esti- mates	As per estimates drawn up in 1968
1	2	3	4	5
<b>I. Coking Coal</b>				
1. Steel Plants ...	12.45	16.09 (16.10)	14.30	24.09 (25.38)
2. Merchant coke ovens, including Sindri Fertilizers	1.80	3.10 (2.60)	2.00	4.35 (3.70)
<b>Total</b>	14.25	19.19 (18.70)	16.30	28.44 (29.08)
				25.44
<b>II. Blendable Coal</b>				
...	1.10	2.69 (1.72)	1.50	3.38 (2.74)
				1.54

## III. Non-coking Coal

## A. Central Priorities

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Railways ...	...	16.20	16.20	16.20	13.40	13.40
2. Thermal Power Stations (excluding middlings)	...	10.40	(16.20)	(16.20)	(13.40)	
3. Export ...	...	0.40	11.47	12.00	21.48	20.00
	...	...	(9.50)	(9.50)	(18.00)	
4. Cement ...	...	3.20	0.50	0.40	0.62	0.62
	...	...	(0.40)	(0.40)	(0.62)	
5. Fertiliser ...	...	0.60	5.10	3.60	6.60	5.50
6. Heavy Chemicals ...	...	0.38	(3.60)	0.60	(5.50)	
	...	...	0.65	0.38	2.11	2.00
7. Paper and Paper Board ...	...	1.40	0.38	0.38	0.52	0.52
	...	...	(0.38)	(0.38)	(0.52)	
8. Cotton Textiles ...	...	1.60	1.40	1.40	1.50	
	...	...	(1.40)	(1.40)	(1.50)	
9. Steel Plant Boilers ...	...	1.56	1.70	1.60	1.70	1.80
	...	...	(1.70)	(1.70)	(1.80)	
10. Aluminium ...	...	0.89	1.56	1.56	1.76	1.76
	...	...	(1.56)	(1.56)	(1.70)	
11. Engineering and foundries, refractories, tea gardens, sugar mills etc.	...	2.50	0.89	0.89	1.11	1.11
	...	...	(0.89)	(0.89)	(1.11)	
<b>Total</b> ...	...	38.87	2.68	2.50	3.37	3.40
	...	...	(2.50)	(2.50)	(3.40)	
			42.53	41.13	54.17	51.61
			(38.63)		(49.61)	

	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>B. State Priorities</b>						
1. Soft Coke ...	...	2.90	3.50 (3.00)	3.00	5.13	4.40
2. Brick Burning ...	...	3.00	3.00 (3.00)	3.00	3.30	3.30 (12.10)
3. Industries ...	...	5.00	5.29 (5.30)	5.30	6.40	6.40
<b>Total : (State Priorities)</b> ...	...	10.90	11.79	11.30	15.33	14.60
Total Non-coking (including blendable coal) ...	...	50.87	57.01 (51.65)	53.93	72.88 (64.45)	67.75 (12.10)
<b>Grand Total :</b> ...	...	65.12	76.20 (70.35)	70.23	101.32 (93.53)	93.19 <sup>or</sup> 93.20

(1) Figures in brackets indicate the tentative estimates of demand as projected in the paper on 'Future demand for coal—Projection upto 1960'—presented before the First Session of the Symposium on the Coal Mining Industry.

(2) The Statement is reproduced from the Annexure to the Agenda item on 'Assessment of Coal demand during the Fourth Five Year Plan' prepared by the Department of Mines and Metals for the consideration of the Coal Advisory Council at their meeting on 15.11.1969.

**Field-wise and Year-wise break-up of the estimated demand for Coal during the  
Fourth Plan period as assessed by the Planning Group on Coal**

(Figures in million tonnes excluding loss  
in production and colliery consumption).

Name of the Coal Field	Sector	Estima- ted actuals 1968-69	Estimated demand during					REMARKS
			1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>I. Coaking Coal</b>								
Bengal-Bihar								
	Private :	10.67	12.62	12.54	17.07	16.14	16.62	As drawn up by the Company recently
	TISCO :	1.79	1.79	1.79	1.96	2.26	2.26	
	HISCO :	0.27	0.43	0.44	0.69	2.54	2.17	
	Public :	3.20	4.39	6.62	6.38	7.67	8.42	
	<b>Total :</b>	<b>15.93</b>	<b>19.23</b>	<b>21.39</b>	<b>26.60</b>	<b>27.61</b>	<b>29.47</b>	
<b>II. Non-coaking coal (including blendable coal)</b>								
(a) Bengal-Bihar :								
	Private :	29.15	30.19	31.13	32.00	33.96	36.00	
	Public :	3.10	3.31	3.32	3.30	3.30	3.30	
	<b>Total :</b>	<b>32.26</b>	<b>33.50</b>	<b>34.45</b>	<b>35.30</b>	<b>37.26</b>	<b>39.30</b>	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(b) Orissa :	Private :	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	
	Public :	0.73	1.09	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	
	<b>Total :</b>	1.20	1.56	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	
(c) Assam :	Private :	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	
(d) Pench and Chanda :	Private :	3.98	3.87	3.96	4.06	4.10	4.10	
	Public :	0.68	0.94	1.15	1.32	1.56	1.56	
	<b>Total :</b>	4.63	4.81	5.11	5.38	5.66	5.66	
(e) C.T.C.	Private :	4.09	4.24	4.34	4.43	4.43	4.43	
	Public :	4.04	4.62	5.39	5.89	6.13	6.13	
	<b>Total :</b>	8.13	8.86	9.23	10.32	10.56	10.56	
(f) Singrauli	Public :	0.57	0.85	1.44	1.51	1.60	1.70	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(g) Singareni	Public :	3.80	4.00	4.00	4.71	4.71	4.71	
<b>Total :</b>	Private :	38.16	39.24	40.37	41.43	43.43	45.47	
non-coking coal	Public :	12.92	14.81	15.93	17.89	18.46	18.56	
	<b>Total :</b>	51.08	54.05	56.30	59.32	61.89	64.03	
<b>III. Grand total</b>	Private :	50.89	54.08	55.14	61.15	63.37	66.52	
(Coking plus Non-coking coal)	Public :	16.12	19.20	22.53	24.77	26.13	26.98	
	<b>Total :</b>	67.01	73.28	77.69	85.92	89.50	93.50	

Note: In the light of the recommendations that the Working Group set up by the Ministry of Railways may make, if it is ultimately decided, in consultation with the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance to create additional capacity at Singrauli, the production and demand figures for coal from this field as given above, would require change. There would, however, be corresponding reduction in the production/demand figures from Bengal-Bihar coal field, the grand total of 93.50 million tonnes remaining the same.

The Statement is as prepared by the Department of Mines and Metals,



## C. COAL ADVISORY COUNCIL.

It may be recalled that by its resolution No. C6-7(1)/67 dated 12 June 1968 the Government of India in the late Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals, (Department of Mines and Metals), redesignated the Coal Development Council as the "Coal Advisory Council" which is a broad-based deliberative body on which the various interests concerned with the production, distribution and consumption of coal are represented.

The function of the Coal Advisory Council is to advise Government in regard to all matters of a general character relating to coal, and in particular, to problems pertaining to planning for the development, utilization and due conservation of the coal resources of the country.

After a lapse of more than a year, a meeting of the Coal Advisory Council was held in Vigyan Bhavan, Committee Room 'E', New Delhi on 15 November 1969, the previous meeting having been held on 19 July 1968. Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman, attended the meeting as the representative of the Federation with Sri H. N. Mookherjee, Vice-Chairman, as his adviser.

A summary note of the discussions held at the above meeting of the Coal Advisory Council is given below:

The morning session of the meeting was presided over by Dr. Triguna Sen, Minister for Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines and Metals. The afternoon session was presided over by Sri Jagannath Rao, Minister of State for Mines & Metals.

*Item No. 1: Assessment of Coal Demand during the Fourth Five Year Plan.*

An exhaustive note submitted by the Government was considered in detail. The Industry pointed out that the demand for coking coal should be assessed on the basis of actual requirements of coal by the steel plants during the Fourth Plan period the total demand for coal at the end of which was estimated at 93.5 million tonnes, the target for coking coal being 29.50 million tonnes. The industry apprehended that the current demand for coking coal was much below the estimated figure and that there had been accumulation of stock at pitheads in most of the collieries who were supplying coal to steel plants and were not allowed to sell to other consumers. This had resulted in the blocking of a large amount of money in the shape of stock. The Industry pleaded for ninety percent advance against coal stocks to enable it to meet its running expenditure and also to develop and achieve higher production. The request was practically turned down on the plea that this was merely a temporary phase and the steel plants would resume their offtake as per programme as soon as the troubles at several plants owing to damages to Coke Oven Batteries and some labour troubles were over. The Industry then pleaded for a National Fuel Policy, particularly in respect of quick dieselization of railways resulting in gradual reduction of demand for coal to run locomotives. Dr. Sen promised that he would take it up personally with the Government. It was said that there would be a great demand for coal by the Thermal Power Stations throughout India and by 1973-74 the requirement would be twenty million tonnes.

It was noted that there would be three coal-based fertilizer plants instead of two as brought out in the paper before the Council. This would have the effect of augmenting the demand for coal.

On the question of export of coal, the Industry criticized the way the M.M.T.C. had been dealing with Japan and other countries in respect of exporting coking coal. Sri Poddar said that there was a market for non-coking coal in South Korea, Yugoslavia, Japan and other countries where large quantities of non-coking coal could be sold if proper promotion efforts were made. Sri Poddar wanted that the Government should explore the possibility of exporting non-coking coal to these countries.

It was decided to hold a periodical review of coal demand by the Standing Committee of this Council in order to obviate any possibility of a wrong estimate of coal demand during the Fourth Plan period.

#### *Item No. II Coal Transport and Distribution.*

Most of the members criticized the way the Railway Ministry was represented at several meetings of the Committee on Transport, Distribution and Controls. The plea that the Railway Ministry had constituted committees for periodical review of transport and distribution of coal did not satisfy the members. It was stated that there should be an independent committee to review and plan for transport and distribution and the committee should have enough power to enforce the Railways to accept its recommendations. It was decided to re-constitute the Committee on Transport and Distribution with the Minister for Railways as Chairman of the reconstituted committee.

In order to enable the Railways to properly plan the distribution of coal, a feeling was voiced that the Railway Administration should be given a direction-wise break-down

of movement of coal during the Fourth Plan period. While it was admitted that in the wake of lifting of control over the movement and prices of coal, it would be difficult for the Coal Controller to give a detailed break-up of the direction-wise movement, he would attempt to give an outline of the scheme of movement listing the major consumers. The Coal Controller would prepare such a broad outline of scheme in about a month's time and forward it to the Department of Mines and Metals for onward transmission to the Railways.

The representatives of the Industry referred to the short supply of wagons for brick-burning and soft coke. They stressed that movement in block rakes alone did not meet their requirements. It was necessary to have piece-meal movement on a large scale. Some sort of a scheme of balanced movement between the busy and slack seasons was also called for. The representative of the Railway pointed out that the supply of wagons was adequate and shortfalls might be only marginal. It was felt, however, by the Council that the smaller consumers' requirements were not being met adequately and something positive needed to be done in this behalf by the Railways. It was decided that the representatives of the coal industry, the consumers and the Railways should have a joint dialogue relating to the subject matter. The meeting might be convened under the aegis of the Department of Mines and Metals.

The representatives of the Industry voiced strong feelings regarding the inadequacy in sand stowing transport. One of the points mentioned was regarding transportation of sand from Dehri-on-Sone by the Railways. The Railway representative, however, stated that this proposition had been examined and they considered it uneconomic and hence not feasible. In this connexion, a reference was made to a Committee set up by the Coal Board which was to submit a re-

port on sand availability. It was decided to ask this Committee to submit its report within the next 3 months.

Other matters discussed related to demurrage charges in loading box wagons, overall transport and wagon position, relaxation of rationalization rules, theft of coal at transshipment points, etc. and Sri Lall, Sri Poddar and Sri R. L. Worah vehemently criticized the attitude of the Railways in tackling these perennial problems of transport and distribution.

### *Item No. III : Royalty on Coal.*

It was stated on behalf of the Industry that in the last meeting of the Standing Committee of the Coal Advisory Council the question of royalty was discussed in detail and 6 groups proposed were by and large agreed to. One point, however, remained to be thrashed out i.e. HH Grade Coking coal should be grouped with Grade 1 non-coking coal. This coal went partly to the steel plants and partly to private consumers and hence there was no justification of higher rate of royalty on this coal. It was felt by them that it might be kept under a separate head.

While agreeing in principle to the Government's decision to fix royalty rates on coal on a tonnage basis and fixing the rates on the basis of the grades of coal, the Industry, the N.C.D.C and even the Coal Controller pointed out that royalty should be charged only on coal which was despatched. Sri Chakraborty of the West Bengal Government however urged that royalty should be charged also on coal consumed in the boilers and for domestic use at the colliery by the colliery workers. The Industry vehemently objected to it



pointing out that in the history of the coal industry royalty had never been charged on coal which was not despatched. Moreover, the objective of the change-over for collection of royalty from a fixed percentage to a fixed tonnage basis was mainly to simplify the system of collection. Introduction of the proposed plan of charging royalty on boiler consumption of coal etc. would not only violate the principle but would create further complications in maintaining records and producing accounts both by the colliery owners and the royalty collectors. The representatives of the Industry thought that they should vehemently protest and send a memorandum on this issue immediately.

The question of charging royalties on coal rejects was strongly taken up by the N.C.D.C. It was stated that introduction of royalty on rejects would complicate matters where the rejects were thrown away by the Washeries as they did not fetch any price. The question of the selling price of Grade HH coal not programmed for steel plants came up for discussion. The Industry pleaded for fixation of a lower rate of royalty for Grade HH coal.

*Item No. IV : Action taken on the decision taken at the last meeting of the Council.*

On the question of voluntary amalgamation of collieries, it was pointed out by the Industry that more than a hundred collieries had voluntarily amalgamated and many proposals for amalgamation could not be taken up owing to various technical and legal difficulties for which the Industry should not be blamed. Simplification of amalgamation procedure would certainly encourage voluntary amalgamation of colliery units specially in relating to grant of permission to



transfer by the State Government after amalgamation was approved.

Other subjects, like the study on the availability of sand for the Jharia Coalfields, soft coke and brick burning coal, transport problems, a scheme of coal dumps, freight rebate to trade for moving coal in slack season, a cushion to meet emergency in respect of movement of coal wagons, problems relating to loading time, sand supply by rail from Dehri-on-Sone to Jharia coalfields, etc. also came up for discussion. On the question of depillaring of mines by adopting French Caging Method, Dr. Sinha said that this method was successfully tried in one of the N.C.D.C. mines and he wanted the co-operation of the private sector for trial in some of the mines. He thought that this method would be successful if given a fair trial in the private sector mines. The question of manufacturing formed coke in Plants also came up for discussion and the members pressed for report and felt that if the scheme was successful the problem of metallurgical coal would be eased.

*Item No. V: Continuance or otherwise of the Committee on Transport and Distribution.*

As reported earlier, it was decided that this Committee would continue to function and the Minister for Railways would be requested to be the Chairman of this Committee.

*Item No. VI(A): Review of the work done by the Committee on Assessment of Resources for 1968-69 and 1969-70.*

The Coal Controller gave a brief resume of the work done

by this Committee. It was decided that the report being too lengthy, a brief summary should be prepared and circulated to the members. It should be discussed at the next meeting of the Standing Committee of the Coal Advisory Council.

*Item No. VI(B): Review of the work done by the Committee on Productivity and Modernization of Coal Mines for 1968-69 and 1969-70.*

The report of the Committee was noted subject to the following observations:-

(i) Though it was felt that operational research was necessary in coal industry in general and in selected areas in particular for optimum utilization of manpower and equipment, it was not necessary to invite any experts from the National Coal Board, U.K. for this purpose, if the Coal Mining Research Station could undertake this study. It was decided to explore with Director, Central Mining Research Station if he could undertake this responsibility.

(ii) With reference to introducing methods of caving with false roofing, it was felt that since M.A. & M.C. was not in a position to supply steel props in adequate quantities and in the immediate future, import of these props might have to be permitted. The Coal Controller should compile requirements of the Industry and make a reference to the Government for being pursued with the authorities concerned.

*Item No VI(C) : Report of the Committee on Research & Development of the Coal Advisory Council.*

The synopsis of the Committee's recommendations relating to newer techniques for winning and utilizing coal was noted.

*Item No. VII : Need for scientific exploitation of Jharia Coal.*

The Industry wanted to know the Government's intention about coking coal production. While agreeing in principle to approach this problem by proper planning for scientific exploitation of coking coal, particularly in the Central Jharia field, the Industry pressed for an immediate increase in price to enable the colliery owners not only to implement the Wage Board's recommendations in full, but also to go ahead with their plans for increasing the production of coking coal. There was no dearth of coking coal. Most of the collieries were holding large stocks because of the paucity of demand. The Industry pleaded for immediate disbursement of the cess fund which had accumulated out of the cess collected for the betterment of coking coal production. The question of charging cess on the consumers of non-coking coal came up for discussion. Some members vehemently objected to the proposal for charging cess on non-coking coal. Final fixation of the rate of cess was also discussed.

The Minister clarified that the note put up was for the information of the Council. No ideas had yet been finally crystallized. The industry was welcome to send their comments. A final decision in this regard would be taken only after taking into account the comments of the Industry and

if it so desired further discussion with the industry could be arranged before finalizing the scheme.

*Items taken up with the permission of the Chairman.*

*1. High level of coking coal stocks.*

The representatives of the Industry expressed concern at the mounting level of stocks of coking coal as a result of reduction in the demand of steel plants. The Coal Controller explained that the present situation was of a temporary nature and in any case, stocks had not gone up except at a few collieries. It was the outcome of unforeseen and unavoidable difficulties like labour troubles and break-down of coke ovens etc. It was hoped that the present situation would ease out before long. The Industry's representatives, however, reiterated the seriousness of the situation and stressed its rectification at the earliest as otherwise, grave repercussions might follow in so far as coking coal production was concerned. If the present demand pattern continued, it was stated on behalf of the National Coal Development Corporation it would be rather difficult to utilize washed coal from the Kathara and Swang washeries of the National Coal Development Corporation. There was already a demand from the steel side that the commissioning of these washeries should be held over. This could not be done without attending serious repercussions.

- 2. (a) Shortage of Iron & Steel materials—Upgrading of coal industry's priority: (b) Coking coal as a Key Industry and (c) Foreign exchange for the coal industry.*

The Industry's representatives stated that adequate amounts of foreign exchange not being made available even

to buy the essential spares for maintenance and keeping production at a certain level. It was emphasized that the coal industry should have priority in the matter of allotment of foreign exchange and getting import licences.

It was explained by the Coal Controller that the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Engineering had set up a Working Group to suggest modification in the present system of distribution of iron and steel materials. He had had discussions with the members of this group and explained to them the problem of serious shortages faced by the coal industry. He had also stressed before the Group the desirability of raising the status of the coal industry in the private sector from Priority II to Priority I. It might take another 2 months or so for the Working Group to finalize its report. In the meantime, it was felt that it would be useful to have precise information about (i) the annual requirements of the kinds of iron and steel materials needed by the Coal Industry (ii) how much of the requirements were being met at present (iii) what was the shortage which affected the production and (iv) the names of the controlled stockists earmarked for the Coal Industry.

It was explained on behalf of the Development of Mines & Metals that the information on the above lines had been called for from the Coal Controller and the Industry was requested to extend the necessary co-operation in having the necessary information furnished at the earliest so that the matter was further processed with the Ministry of Steel & Heavy Engineering.

It was explained on behalf of the Department of Mines & Metals that coking coal had already been included in the list of "Key Industries" and as such, entitled to preferential treatment in the matter of release of foreign exchanges. The



Industry's representatives, however, requested that early arrangements to make foreign exchange available for the import of capital goods and spares and components be made. They also expressed their difficulties in the matter of obtaining licences. It was explained on behalf of the Department of Mines & Metals that this matter had already been taken up with the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports. They had been asked as to why coking coal industry though included in the category of key industries was not being accorded a preferential treatment as it deserved. The progress made in this regard would be reviewed at the next meeting of the standing Committee of the Coal Advisory Council.

### 3. *Scheme of Final Assistance to the coking coal Industry.*

As pointed out earlier in the minutes, the Minister assured the Council that the scheme would not be finalized without taking into account the comments of the industry. They were requested to send their comments, if any, at the earliest.

### 4. *Unplanned construction in coalfields.*

It was stated on behalf of the West Bengal Government that they had under examination a Bill for compulsorily shifting people from areas where there were valuable coal reserves located underneath. The Industry's representatives also joined him in emphasizing that further unplanned building on exploitable coal reserves should be prohibited by the State Government. It was decided that the Council should recommend to the Government of India to request the State Governments and the Governments of West Bengal and Bihar



in particular, to undertake legislation to prohibit building new structures in an unplanned manner on coal bearing areas. Wherever legislation existed to prevent unplanned construction, it should be implemented effectively. It was, however, accepted that the whole question boiled down to the economics of the proposition i.e. in weighing whether the moneys involved in having the coal bearing areas vacated vis-a-vis the value and quality of the exploitable coal locked up.

All the representatives of the Joint Working Committee were very critical on every subject that came up for discussion. Nothing was decided at the meeting. The political situation at the centre perhaps kept the Government side non-committal on every point and at the end the Government side hastily finished many important items on the agenda without any decision. The representatives of the Industry came out from the meeting room with a feeling that the meeting was untimely.

#### I. COAL ADVISORY COUNCIL: STANDING COMMITTEE

Only two meetings of the above committee were held since its formation at both of which the Federation was represented by Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman.

At the first meeting held at New Delhi on 20 December 1968 under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Steel, Mines and Metals, the Minister opening the discussions referred to the decision already taken to switch over to the tonnage basis and the discussion held in Ootacamund regarding the sug-

gested groupings and rates for the purpose of royalty. He invited the views of the representatives of the Industry and the State Governments present at the meeting on the groupings and rates suggested.

Sri Lall of the Indian Mining Association pointed out that the decision to switch over to royalty on tonnage basis was taken at the instance of the State Governments specifically for the purpose of simplifying collection of revenue etc. It would be wrong on their part to put forward a claim for increased royalty while undertaking rationalization. Coal should be treated like other minerals such as manganese, limestone, etc., while switching over to tonnage basis. He suggested the examination of the legal aspects of conversion to tonnage basis and whether or not this could be made the occasion for an increase in rates.

Clarifying the position in this regard the Minister stated that the views of the Law Ministry had already been obtained. This advice broadly was to the effect that in respect of pre-1949 leases (which had become statutory leases) royalty rates could be enhanced without any legal difficulty but he agreed that this matter should be further examined thoroughly so that lurking doubts, if any, were cleared.

In reply to a query the representatives of the Bihar and West Benal Governments explained that having regard to the relevant Supreme Court judgment it could safely be said by them that there were no pre-1949 coal leases in their States.

The various statements appended to the note circulated for the meeting were then carefully scrutinized. It was

explained that the proposed rates were arrived at on the basis of weighted average which appeared to be the only practical way. It was not considered possible for obvious reason to take into account the different prices prevailing in different areas vis-a-vis a multitude of consumers.

Sri Lall stated that there were violent changes in certain cases in the rates of royalty suggested in the statements attached to the agenda papers and, these were not in accordance with the decision taken in favour of marginal adjustments only.

After a good deal of discussion it was decided that

(i) There should be the following six groupings:

#### Grades

Group I coals	Coking A, B & C Non-coking—Sel. A
Group II	Coking D & E Non-coking Sel. B, Sel(OL)
Group III	Coking F, G & H Non-coking Gr. I
Group IV	Coking HH Non-coking II, IIIA & B
Group V	Coal over 35% ash (Non-vendible coal)
Group VI	Rejects.

The above mentioned groupings would be as certified by the Coal Board or its authorized nominee.

(ii) In Appendix 'C' of the agenda for the meeting in respect of grades II, IIIA & B (Non-coking) and Grade HH (coking) coals, the calculations which were apparently based on ceiling prices should be revised on the basis of actual prices paid for these coals. These prices should be ascertained from Railways etc. The prices indicated in Appendix 'B' for Gr. I coal would also seem to require revision.

(iii) The next meeting should be held in the second or third week of February at Calcutta, but the agenda papers for the meeting should be circulated about three weeks in advance.

The question of royalty rates in respect of Assam and Singareni coals was then briefly taken up for discussion. Sri Lall pointed out that Assam coals would require detailed consideration and suggested that it might be discussed in detail at the next meeting. It was decided that one or two representatives of the Assam coal industry should also be invited among others. Regarding royalty rates for Singareni Collieries, it was felt that the problem could be better solved by mutual discussion between the Andhra Pradesh Government and the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., in association with the Central Government representative.

The second meeting of the above Committee was held in New Delhi on 5 September 1969 under the Chairmanship of Sri Jagannath Rao, Minister of State for Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals, who welcomed members of the Standing Committee and invited their views on the items for discussions. He said that the first two items had already been discussed on earlier occasions and it was necessary to take early decisions on them.

Initiating the discussion on item No. 1, Sri Bose (West Bengal) said that the Government of West Bengal stood by the views already expressed in their letter of 29th July 1969 that there should be only three groups for purposes of royalty.

Dr. Lahiri (Central Fuel Research Institute) agreed with the above and felt that the categorization of various grades into a number of groups for purposes of royalty would result in disputes between the Industry and the State Governments. He would rather suggest the following groupings:

- (i) Coking coal
- (ii) Non-coking coal of Bengal-Bihar fields
- (iii) Outlying coals
- (iv) Rejects

Sri Lall (Indian Mining Association) said that at present there were nine royalty rates for coking coal and six for non-coking coal separately for steam and slack. Thus there were 30 different rates prevailing at present. The proposal now was to have only six different rates; groupings suggested were on the basis decided on at the last meeting of the Standing Committee. The discussion should really start from the point where it had been left at the last meeting.

Sri Prasad (National Coal Development Corporation) pointed out that by retaining separate groups for non-vendible and rejects the State Governments would stand to benefit and if these were eliminated, the question of payment of royalty in respect of non-vendible or rejects would not arise. Dr. Lahiri felt that the term 'ungradable' would be more appropriate than 'non-vendible'. The Coal Controller pointed



out that the term 'non-vendible' had been used in the Colliery Control Order and it had already been classified as coal with 35 to 50 per cent ash. The term was generally fairly well understood in the coal circles and should be retained. He also stated that there were rejects in West Bengal and Bihar and the Coal Board had issued grade certificates for these even though they were not of a sizeable quantity. On behalf of the Coal Industry it was pointed out that groups I & II should not be amalgamated and that the rounded off royalty rate in respect of group II should have been Rs. 1.80 instead of Rs. 1.85.

After discussions it was decided that the groupings already agreed to at the time of the last meeting of the Standing Committee were by and large reasonable and should stand.

The discussions then centred round the rates of royalty worked out in the Ministry's note.

Sri Worah requested that while deciding the royalty rates the development of lower grades of coal should also be considered. It was decided that the final decision on the royalty rates should be taken by the Government bearing in mind the suggestions made at the meeting.

The decisions taken on the royalty rates might be summed up as under :

The groupings suggested in the Ministry's note for purposes of royalty would be retained. The royalty rates would



be fixed taking into account the suggestions made at the meeting and generally on the basis of prices paid by the Railways and steel plants as on 1.10.1969. The royalty rates would be worked out on f.o.r. basis and thus sales tax, excise duty and payments in kind would not be taken into account.

### *Item II.*

The Bihar representative stated that they could not afford to lose the revenues of the State which had become due consequent on the Supreme Court judgment. However, the State Government was prepared to accept the dues in instalments so as not to cause hardship to the Industry. Regarding amendment to Section 16(1), the State Government had recently made some suggestion which might be considered. The State Government was also in favour of repealing Section 30(A). The West Bengal representative endorsed the views of the Bihar Government. It was agreed that there was need to bring pre-1949 leases in accordance with the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the mechanics of achieving this object would be looked into by the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Law. On behalf of the Coal Industry, it was stated that they had taken up the issue of arrear royalty in the Patna High Court and it was sub-judice. In the circumstances, Sri Lall suggested that in the meantime no amendment to Section 16(1) or 30(A) should be introduced. It was decided to take this aspect into consideration also.

### *Item III.*

On behalf of the Government of Bihar, it was stated that a reply had been sent to the Department of Mines & Metals in respect of enhancement of surface rent on coal lands. As far as the surface rent in respect of lands covered by Sections 9,

10 and 11 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act was concerned, increase would be made either by agreement between the two parties or in case of failure to come to agreement, by reference to the Mines Tribunal. The State Government would adopt this procedure. The pending demands for surface rent would also be modified according to the new instructions. In view of the clarification given by the State Government there was no further discussion on the subject.

The consensus of opinion at the meeting was in favour of continuing the Committee whose scope of functioning was much wider than merely considering day-to-day transport problems. It was, however, for the Coal Advisory Council to take decision on the suggestion made by the Railways. It was decided that having regard to the viewpoint of the Railways and other present, a paper should be prepared and put up at the next meeting of the Coal Advisory Council.

## II COAL ADVISORY COUNCIL:

### COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND DISTRIBUTION

The Committee held five meetings during the year. Sri Pritamlal A. Chanchani represented the Federation on the Committee.

At the first meeting, held at Calcutta on 15 and 16 January 1969, the Coal Controller presented the following figures in support of his statement that within the ambit of the daily movement target of 6600 wagons for the Bengal/Bihar field the Railways had done fairly well.

## ALLOTMENT IN WAGONS (D/AVERAGE)

Period	Steel	Washeries	Other Consumers	Total
June/68	1321	596	3518	5435
July/68	1338	611	3728	5677
Aug./68	1215	634	3988	5837
Sept./68	1342	709	4416	6467
Oct./68	1302	741	4481	6524
Nov./68	1523	798	3848	6169
	<hr/> 8041 <hr/>	<hr/> 4089 <hr/>	<hr/> 23979 <hr/>	<hr/> 36109 <hr/>

As for Steel and Washeries, he pointed out that though there had been a shortfall in allotment, that was not particularly the fault of the carriers. To meet the recent shortage of coal in the Steel Plants, the Railways even relaxed their rationalization on which, it had appeared to him earlier, they depended too much. But then he pointed out, there was another aspect of the problem of transport requirements in the context of planned development of coal production and its distribution as envisaged in the successive Coal Plans. The Railways would be facing greater difficulties in the coming months. The Steel Plants with Bokaro in its gestation period, would be demanding more and more supply and so also other industrial consumers and other users of coal. He requested the Railways to devise ways and meet the situation. He added that the Railways in some cases had taken the position of sponsoring authority in the matter of fixing of coal quota even for important consumers like power houses. He cited the case of the U. P. Electricity Board.

In regard to the Korea & Rewa field the Chairman pointed out that facts revealed that the target of 850 was not considered enough with the present goings-on. There was therefore, a case of upward revision. He requested members to indicate the quantum of increase.

It was pointed out on behalf of the Railways that the field-wise targets for Fourth Plan period had not yet been finalized and final figures might perhaps be awaited before recommending an ad-hoc increase in targets for the C.I.C. field.

The Committee, however, agreed to the suggestion for increasing the target to 1150 wagons for the year 1969. The Chairman ruled that the view of the Committee should be communicated to the Government for consideration through the Ministry of Mines and Metals.

The Chairman pointed out that with the output of coal going up from 67 million tonnes to 98 million tonnes at the end of the Fourth Plan, there would be an increase of about 6 million tonnes every year and the Railways would have to gear up their transport capacity to this end. He enquired of the members about their views as to the quantum of this increase over that of the existing target of 4100 wagons per day on Bengal-Bihar field for 1969.

Sri M. L. Agarwalla (I.C.O.A.) suggested that the target of 4100 for Bengal-Bihar field (E.R. & S.E. Rly. combined) be raised by 20% i.e. 4900 or an increase of 800 wagons per day.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to the following proposals:

- (a) The target of 4100 for other consumers be raised upwards by 20% per annum to 4900 wagons i.e. an increase of 800 wagons for the year 1969.
- (b) This increase of 800 wagons should include an additional 100 wagons for movement of soft coke which should be in addition to the present movement quota of 400 per day.
- (c) The Railways might in the meantime make every endeavour to achieve the present target of 6600 overall and 4100 for 'other consumers' and thus fulfil their long outstanding commitment to the Coal Industry.

The second meeting was held at Delhi on 13 and 14 March 1969. At this meeting the following measures were suggested by the members at the request of the Chairman for immediate implementation by the Railways:

- (a) First, the sponsored quota for all industries including BRK and soft coke should be met in full. The Railways should try to achieve their own coal loading targets in each area/field in the busy season.
- (b) The existing targets for loading of coal be increased.
- (c) Transshipment capacities for coal at Virangam, Hotgi, TTP, Korkupettai, Secunderabad etc. be increased as soon as possible to avoid bottle-necks.



- (d) Allotment of four wheeler wagons in piecemeal should be increased, particularly for Korea and Rewa field and Railways be requested to accept directional block rakes of four-wheeler to assist small consumers.
- (e) To assist small consumers, the Railways be requested to make rotational pilot-wise allotments piecemeals in four-wheelers on nominated days. The Coal Industry emphasized that they be consulted in fixing the percentage of allotment in each section.
- (f) In case of short supply after allotment made by the Railways, it should be made good within 30 days from the date of such short supply.
- (g) In the States where the Railways were not demanding sponsoring for movement of coal i.e. West Bengal, excepting North Bengal and Bihar, excepting north Bihar, the Railways be requested to meet the demand in full.
- (h) Transshipment capacity at Itwari and Gondia on the S.E. Rly. should be increased to enable movement of coal from collieries on narrow gauge section on the Satpura Range, to stations on the broad gauge side.

The Chairman informed the members that he had had a fruitful discussion on the transport problems of the Coal Industry with the Minister for Railways at Railway Bhawan on the previous day. The Minister promised to give as many wagons as were required. The Minister evinced keen interest and wanted him to give a note pin-pointing the present difficulties which required to be remedied by the Railways. The



Chairman requested the Secretary of the Committee to prepare such a note, with the help of the members. The Committee agreed.

The third meeting of the Committee during the year was held on 7 and 8 April 1969 in Tilak Hall, Council House, Lucknow.

In welcoming the members the Chairman stated that this meeting of the Committee was convened at Lucknow to hear those small consumers/traders direct whose voice was not being heard in the present context about their difficulties/problems in securing their coal/coke requirements after decontrol. He said that coal was unlike other finished industrial products and had to be extracted from underground. Its production was naturally dependent on its offtake, which in its turn was dependent on the despatching facilities offered mainly by the Railways to enable it to reach the ultimate consumer of such coal. He explained in brief the composition, functions and the utility of this Committee in the post-decontrol period in the matter of finding solutions through discussion with all interests concerned, regarding shortages, distribution and transport with a view to meeting the increased demand for this commodity that was being generated with the lifting of control. This Committee was aware that while the crux of the problem was the inadequate wagon availability, the problem was more pronounced in the case of numerous small consumers of brick burning coal and soft coke, spread all over the country, whose requirements were small, and finance limited and who naturally could not afford to receive their requirements of coal/coke in rake loads of Box wagons. The Chairman then invited the representatives of the various associations of brick kiln owners/soft coke depot holders etc. to place their problems before the Committee for its examination.

At the request of the Chairman the representatives of the associations of brick kiln owners explained their difficulties in getting the required quantity and quality of coal/coke. These difficulties could be summarized under the following heads:—

- (1) In adequate and erratic supply of coal/coke.
- (2) Increase in price of coal/coke after decontrol.
- (3) Inferior quality of coal/coke.
- (4) Loss in Weight.
- (5) Late receipts of Railway Receipts at the destination station.
- (6) Inadequacy of permissible free time for (a) unloading of wagons and (b) removal of coal from the Railway sidings.
- (7) Nomination of coal agents by the State Government.
- (8) The undesirability of the dump scheme.

#### PRICE OF COAL/COKE AFTER DECONTROL

In regard to the State quota for U.P., the Committee after discussions agreed that the quota for U.P. State should be immediately fixed at 200 rakes per month, for April, May and June 1969 and this be continued till such time as the State Government would make a further assessment of their demand after a study of the situation then prevailing. It was further agreed that the above decision of the Committee be sent to the Government through the Ministry of Mines and Metals.

On a query from the Chairman about the high prices of coal/coke reported by the local representatives of the various Associations of Brick Kiln Owners etc., the representative of the State Government, Sri Bhagwant Singh, confirmed that last year slack coal was sold even at Rs. 120/- per tonne at same places. This year it was being sold generally at Rs. 90/- to Rs. 100/- per tonne. Soft coke was selling at more than Rs. 4.50 per 40 kg. besides sales tax and labour charges. Sri Singh also referred to the sponsoring system and said that an attempt was made by the State Government of U. P. to abolish this system but it did not work well. It resulted in monopolisation of booking and over bookings at the despatching ends, blockades at the destination ends and imposition on Railway restriction on booking from time to time. The situation could not be met by full decontrol. Sponsoring of wagon was a necessity to regulate supplies. He also said that decontrol had been unsuccessful. There should be re-control over price and distribution and movement.

#### COAL DUMPS

It was pointed out on behalf of the State Government that in its view a coal dump was a necessity if the present shortage of wagons continued. The State Government was aware of the difficulties in setting up such dumps. The increased cost involved, the arrangement for stacking space and credit facilities etc. were hurdles in the way. The committee was informed that the State Government was considering a proposal in this regard at present and the decision arrived at would be intimated to the Committee.

#### NOMINATION OF COAL AGENTS BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT

On a further query from the Chairman, the representative of the State Government informed that the State Government would examine the matter of nomination in the light of

the opinion expressed by the representative of the brick-kiln owners and coal depot holders etc. earlier and their decision in this respect would be intimated to the Committee.

The fourth meeting was held on 13 and 14 June 1969 in Bombay. The subjects discussed were:

- (i) Inadequate and erratic supply of coal/coke.
- (ii) Pilferage of coal/coke in transit/Railway yard.
- (iii) Sponsored system of movement.
- (iv) Issue of Rly. receipts. Jt. R/R of Box & Ordinary wagons.
- (v) Price of coal/coke after decontrol.

The Chairman in his speech stated that this meeting of the Committee was being held at Bombay to hear the consumers (Big/Small) in the Western Region of India about their difficulties/problems regarding quantity/quality/price of coal/coke in securing their coal/coke requirements after decontrol. He recalled in this connexion that while he was the Chairman of the Coal Transport Advisory Committee, which functioned in the control days in 1963/64, there was also a similar get-together at Bombay. The situation then was, however, different. There was enough coal available, so also transport but there was shortage of consumers. The purpose of that meeting was to find out customers. The position had since undergone a vast change with the Government decision to decontrol movement and price of coal effective from "mid-1967". Since then this Committee had been constantly endeavouring to find out solutions in consultation with all concerned interest to the day-to-day problems faced by the

consumers of coal/coke, particularly smaller sections thereof, spread all over the country, whose requirements were small and finance limited and naturally could not afford to receive their requirements of coal/coke in rake loads of box wagons. Big consumers might have their problems too.

No decisions were taken but the views of the representatives of various bodies on the subjects of the agenda were noted.

The fifth meeting during the year was held on 15 July 1969 at Bangalore.

The Chairman remarked in his speech that the meeting was being held in Bangalore with a view to acquaint the Committee with the difficulties/problems of consumers (big/small) in the Southern part of the country in the matter of obtaining their requirements of coal/coke consequent on decontrol. He also observed that it has often been represented to this Committee by all concerned interests that the crux of the problem was inadequate rail transport. The difficulty however was more pronounced in the case of numerous small consumers of coal, spread all over the country, whose requirements were small and finance limited who could not afford to receive their requirements of coal/coke in rake load of box wagons. The chairman thus requested the representative of the various Industries/Associations to indicate their problems, if any, for the Committee's information/consideration.

The items discussed were:

- (A) Inadequate wagon availability from West Bengal/Bihar Coalfield.



- (B) Shortage of coal in transit/pilferage.
  - (C) Price of coal/coke.
  - (D) Discussion on problems/difficulties relating to coal/coke supply to consumers in the States of Mysore, Tamilnadu etc.
  - (E) Consideration of difficulties of small consumers in different States in the Southern Region of India.
  - (F) Increased facilities for piecemeal movements.
  - (G) Allotment of wagons a/c. B.P. & B.P. Hard Coke.
  - (H) Free loading time for soft coke in box wagons/rakes.
  - (I) Inadequate wagon supply for movement of soft coke.
  - (J) Rake programme—provision for a cushion.
  - (K) Statistical data in Coal Production, Despatches, etc.
  - (L) Allotment of wagons for Soft Coke and Hard Coke.
  - (M) Wagon supply in Central India Coalfields—increase in movement quota.
- (iii) COAL ADVISORY COUNCIL: COMMITTEE ON ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCES

The above Committee held two meetings during the year, the 6th and 7th.

At the 6th meeting held on 13 March 1969, the following



decisions were taken regarding the distribution of printed maps on 1" = 1 mile scale:

- (i) On receipt of the distribution list from the Member-Secretary of the Committee, the G.S.I. would supply sets of maps each comprising of 90 Nos. (35 for Vol. I, 38 for Vol. II and 17 for Vol III) covering with brown papers freely to those, who had been provided with free copies of these volumes.
- (ii) The organizations/parties, who had purchased these volumes, should also be requested to purchase these maps at a cost to be finalized by the Member-Secretary in consultation with the Financial Adviser of the Coal Board.
- (iii) The remaining sets of maps relating to the unsold copies of these reports (Vol I, II & III), should be kept in the safe custody of G.S.I. till the steel almirahs had been provided by the Coal Board for their record.

The following summary of work carried out by the Geological Survey of India for the Committee during the period from 27.8.68 to 12.3.69 was presented at the meeting:

- (i) Seam folio maps of the eastern part of the North Karanpura Coal field had already been finalized but due to the non-availability of complete chemical analysis data, estimation of categorized reserves had been held up. But meanwhile, data in respect of other blocks, viz., Pakri-Barwadih, etc. were being processed for the preparation of seamfolio maps.

- (ii) 2500 maps had been sent to the Govt. of India Press for incorporation in the Report of the Sub-Committee on the Coal Resources of the Jharia, Raniganj & East Bokaro coalfields with Special Reference to their Non-coking Coal Potentialities.
- (iii) Received from the Survey of India 800 copies of seam-folio maps of the Jharia Coalfield, 20 copies each from 40 original sheets on 4"=1 mile scale. Arrangements were made for their storage distribution etc.

The 7th meeting of the Committee was held on 13 August 1969. The following reports were presented at the meeting and recorded as annexures in the proceedings:

- (i) The correlation of seams in respect of the Karidari, Pakri-Barwadih Blocks had been finalized and a composite map of the Central part of the North Karanpura was prepared for making seam-folio maps.
- (ii) Rechecking of the categorywise reserves of prime coking coal in the leased out areas of the Jharia coalfield was carried out. The results obtained were in accordance with the estimate of the Sub-Committee on coking coal resources of Jharia, Raniganj and East Bokaro coalfields.
- (iii) Seventy nine seam-folio maps of the Jharia coalfield on 4"=1 mile scale had been scrutinized and sent for printing to the Survey of India.

## D. MINERAL ADVISORY BOARD

The 16th meeting of the Mineral Advisory Board was held at New Delhi on 29 September 1969 under the chairmanship of Dr. Triguna Sen, Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines & Metals. Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman, attended the meeting as a representative of the Federation.

In course of his inaugural address, Dr. Triguna sen made a review of the progress made by the mineral industries during the last two decades and stated that the value of mineral production in India had gone up from Rs. 64 crores in 1948 to Rs. 360 crores in 1968. He emphasized the importance of reduction of costs and the particular need for conservation of scarce resources in a country with limited resources of copper, lead, zinc and high grade coking coal. Dr. Sen also stressed in his speech the need of creating a favourable climate of investment in mineral industries to which end, Dr. Sen stated, the Government was considering the recommendations of the Committee on Incentives to Mining Industry and by the Boothalingam Committee on Rationalization of Tax Structure and it was proposed to make a provision in the Income-tax Act for amortization over a 10-year period of expenditure incurred by an Indian Company on prospecting for specified minerals or groups of associated minerals and development of mines or any other source of natural deposits of such minerals. It was also revealed by Dr. Sen that the Government had accepted the recommendations that the period for the grant of mining leases for minerals should be 30 years on the first instance, renewable at the option of the lessee for a further period of 30 years.

Most of the items on the agenda related to other minerals

than coal; the item that seriously concerned the Coal Industry was one regarding the proposal for levy of royalty on coal and other minerals consumed within the leasehold areas for commercial purposes. In the note circulated by the Ministry at the meeting it was stated that royalty on coal used for boiler consumption to generate steam to operate machinery etc. should also be charged and the explanation given in the note was that such consumption of coal should also come within the purview of the definition of commercial purposes. Although the discussions on the subject were inconclusive, Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman, wrote a D.O. letter to Sri Jagannath Rao, Minister of State for Mines & Metals, drawing his attention to the fact that mostly rejected coals were used for boiler consumption in collieries and that whether the amount of royalty that was charged on such coals, it would impose an additional burden on collieries and inflate the cost of production. The Federation as well as the J.W.C. in a letter pointed out that it would be most unfair and inequitable and unlawful too to charge royalty on coal consumed within the leasehold areas unless coal is actually sold for profit or otherwise. Based on the dictionary meaning of the expression "Commercial Purposes" it was pointed out that a commercial transaction is one which involves buying and selling and the motive of which is to make profit. It was further pointed out that apart from the question of legality in imposing royalty on coal used for boiler consumption, this retrogressive proposal would lead to various complications and constant frictions between the management of the collieries and the State Government authorities particularly in view of the fact that it was hardly possible to assess with any amount of accuracy the quantum of coal used in the boilers of collieries within the leasehold areas. It was also mentioned by Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman, in his D.O. letter, that royalty was being charged from time immemorial on the F.O.R. price of coal and for more than 100 years no royalty had ever been charged on coal used in boiler to operate machinery. The matter is still under consideration of the Government.



## E. PLIGHT OF COKING COAL COLLOERIES

As indicated elsewhere in the Report (Coal Advisory Council) the representatives of the Industry have drawn the attention of the Government to the extreme difficulty being experienced by coking coal collieries as a result of the reduction in the demand of coking coal by washeries and steel plants, and the mounting stocks. The demand from steel plants and washeries fell by about 2,50,000 tonnes a month during the period August 1969 to February 1970. Stocks have risen to an unprecedented level at many collieries and if there is no improvement in the demand coking coal production will receive a set back with serious repercussions on the labour situation in the coalfield area. The financial situation of coking coal collieries, already affected by the serious underpricing referred to by the Tariff Commission, will become still worse. The offtake of the steel plants has fallen because of labour unrest. The Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. is finding it difficult to carry on its routine operation. The Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. is not expected to restore normal offtake until June, 1970. Rourkela Steel Plant has not taken any coal from 1st January, 1970 owing to labour trouble. Their offtake for February has also been reduced very considerably. Durgapur Coke Ovens Project is also not in a position to take the programmed quantity. Furthermore, Kathara and Swang Washeries which were to have been linked to Bokaro Steel Plant, may soon come into operation, but serious delays have taken place in commissioning the Bokaro Steel Plant. The availability of washed coal from Kathara and Swang Washeries would mean that there would be a huge surplus of coking coal on the market until Bokaro comes into operation. It would appear that the coking coal stock position is therefore not likely to improve even by the current year. Measures may have to be taken to keep the collieries going in the national interest and to avoid further labour unrest.

To enable collieries to tide over the present critical position, the Joint Working Committee suggested in its letter No. 71-S/75 dated 25 January 1970 that the Government should finance collieries' pit-head stocks and make efforts to export coking and washed coal so that the stocks could be cleared. It was also suggested that consideration should be given to utilizing P.L. 480 Funds temporarily to prevent complete dislocation of coking coal collieries' finances. It was also suggested that in this critical situation the Private Sector should be given the opportunity to dispose of its coal by direct export without reference to the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation.

But in its letter in reply, No. 10/1/70-CVII dated 5 February 1970, the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines & Metals has stated that it was not possible to accept the suggestion of the Joint Working Committee about financing pit-head stocks at collieries on Government account. The Government has, however, agreed to allow export of sizeable quantities of medium/blendable/non-coking coals from Raniganj, Mohuda, Dishergarh, and Poniat/Sanctoria/Koithi areas. It has also been decided to simplify export procedures. Subject to a floor price being set by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation and canalization of the export through them, exporters will be free to negotiate with foreign buyers. The Joint Working Committee has also been requested to approach the Coal Controller for details regarding the quantities and sources from which export will be permitted.

#### F. VOLUNTARY AMALGAMATION OF COLLIERIES

According to the Progress Report of the Collieries Voluntary Amalgamation Committee for the month of December



1969, the latest position with regard to voluntary amalgamation of collieries is that actual amalgamation has taken place in 52 cases involving 114 collieries, out of 82 proposals involving 172 collieries.

The Committee has so far dropped/rejected 149 cases—79 suggestions and 70 proposals on various grounds. The number of pending cases now stands at 10 of which 7 are ready for consideration at the next meeting and two are under technical examination at the field office and the remaining one is still under correspondence with the proposer. The latest position up to the end of December 1969 is shown in the following consolidated statement:

No. of proposals/suggestions received or initiated.			No. of proposals approved	No. of cases dropped.		Departmental suggestions to the collieries for acceptance.	No. of proposals under consideration
Initiated in 1969.	Received from collieries themselves.	Suggested in course of areawise survey.		Proposals from parties.	Initiated departmentally.		
70	145	115		70	79		
330			82	149		89	10

Cases where amalgamation has taken place showing the number of collieries involved in each case.

Upto the end of December 1969.

Sl. No.	Name of Collieries.	No. of collieries. involved.
1.	East Ena with East Bhuggatdih.	2
2.	Chandore with West Mudidih.	2
3.	Samla Dalurband with Pure Dalurband.	2
4.	Central Kooridih with Sonardih.	2
5.	Indian Jharia with Central Jharia.	2
6.	Pure Selected Angarpathra with North Tentulmari and Central Bansjora Khas.	3
7.	Bengal Jharia with Sree Commercial.	2
8.	Madhujore with coal bearing land in Mouza Gaidhoba.	2
9.	Girimint with an area of Koithee seam in Stripur Colliery's Mouza Stripur.	2
10.	East Nimcha with coal bearing lands in Mouza Damalia, Harabhangha & Egara.	1 + 3 virgin lands.
11.	East Bhuggatdih (including East Ena already amalgamated) with East Bhalgora.	3
12.	Parascole with Mukundapur, Damari-band/Madhusudanpur.	1 + 2 virgin lands.

Sl. No.	Name of collieries.	No. of collieries involved.
13.	Damoda with a part of Raniganj	2
14.	Oriental with Kusumkanali.	2
15.	Bhagya Laxmi with East Kumardhubi.	2
16.	East Angarpathra with M/s. B. Trigunait & Bros.'s Angarpathra.	2
17.	Adjustment of boundaries of West Godhur with South Bulliari Kendwadih (Dhriajoba Section).	2
18.	M/s. Pandabera Coal Co.'s Pandabera with M/s. Khas Busera Coal Concern's Kujama & Pandabera and M/s. Central Kujama Coal Concern's Central Kujama.	4
19.	M/s. Nath & Khas Coal Co.'s Nath Muraidih with Khas Muraidih.	2
20.	M/s. West Ramkanali Colliery Co.'s West Ramkanali with Keshalpur.	2
21.	Pure Burragarh with the Burragarh of the Raniganj Coal Association Ltd.	2
22.	Angarpathra (amalgamated) with the Kantapahari of Sri Meghaji Bhimji.	2
23.	Angarpathra of East Angarpathra Colliery Co. (P) Ltd. with Sree Mahabir Angarpathra of Sree Satyapal Virmani.	2

Sl. No.	Name of collieries.	No. of collieries involved.
24.	Sulanga with Golden Jeenagora of Shri Arjun Agarwalla.	2
25.	Kuya of M/s. Kuya Colliery Co. with Khas Kuya of M/s. Khas Kuya Colliery Co.	2
26.	New Kenda with a part of Parasea.	2
27.	Pure Shampur and Khas Shampur with East Badjna.	3
28.	Pure Samla with coal bearing land of M/s. Mitra & Co. in Mouza Banagram,	1+1 virgin land.
29.	Central Kendwadih with New Sikarichuck.	2
30.	Real Nandi with Poniati Mines.	2
31.	Khas Jharia, New Khas Jharia and Sonalibad with Phulariband.	4
32.	Khas Mehtadih with Selected Jamuatand.	2
33.	Bera with 425 Bighas of coal land in Mouza Verakatta.	1+1 virgin land.
34.	Ena with Bhuggardih.	2
35.	Royal Golukdih with Royal Tisra.	2

Sl. No.	Name of collieries.	No. of collieries involved.
36.	K. S. Nanji's Kujama and Pure Kujama with Central Kujama (amalgamated).	3
37.	Ranipur with a part of Deoli.	2
38.	Sendra Bansjora with Gararia and North Ekra.	3
39.	Selected Jharia & Selected Khas Jharia with East Bhugatdih.	3
40.	New Joyramdih and West Joyramdih with Joyramdih.	3
41.	North Kessurgarh with Khas Joyramdih.	2
42.	Kirkend with New Marine.	2
43.	Central Bansjora & Selected Sendra.	2
44.	Samdi Sangramgarh and Lalbazar	2
45.	North Ghanuadih & West Ghanuadih.	2
46.	Shampur Badjna and Nayadanga.	2
47.	Upper Mandra and Phuliaritand Khas.	2
48.	Angarpathra and Jharia Khas.	2
49.	Kalisthan Angarpathra and West Mudidih.	2

Sl. No.	Name of collieries.	No. of collieries involved.
50.	West Salanpur and Sewaria Salanpur.	2
51.	Methani and Aldih.	2
52.	Sree Jagannath and Central Kessargarh.	2

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#### PROPOSALS ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Sl. No.	Name of collieries.	No. of collieries involved.
1.	Damoda with a part of Raniganj).	2
2.	East Ena with East Bhuggatdih.	2
3.	Bengal Jharia with Sree Commercial.	2
4.	Chandore with West Mudidih.	2
5.	Pure Samla with virgin coal bearing lands of Sri D. Hazra & M/s. Mitra & Co.	1+2 virgin land.
6.	Sripur with coal bearing lands in Mahantagram, Kalipahari & Chack Keshabganj.	1+3 virgin lands.



Sl. No.	Name of collieries.	No. of collieries involved.
7.	Ratibati with coal bearing lands in Mouza Showrah belonging to the Government of West Bengal, in Mouza Ghusick belonging to M/s. Ghusick and Muslia Collieries Ltd. in Mouza Kuardih belonging to M/s. Kuardih Coal Co. Ltd. and in Mouza Damra belonging to M/s. Kalapahari Coal Co. Ltd.	1+4 virgin lands.
8.	Pure Selected Angarpathra with North Tentulmari and Central Bansjora Khas.	3
9.	Bhowanipur with Chitra.	2
10.	Madhujore with coal bearing lands of M/s. Bengal Coal Co. Ltd. in Mouza Gaidhoba.	1+1 virgin land.
11.	East Nimcha with coal bearing lands of M/s. Bengal Coal Co. Ltd. in Damalia, Harabhanga and Egara.	1+3 virgin lands.
12.	Girimint with a part of Sripur.	2
13.	Samla Dalurband with Pure Dalurband.	2
14.	East Bhalgora with East Bhuggatdih.	2
15.	Parascole with Mukundapur, Damari-band/Madhusudanpur.	1+2 virgin lands.
16.	Indian Jharia with Central Jharia.	2
17.	Central Kooridih with Sonardih.	2

Sl. No.	Name of collieries.	No. of collieries involved.
18.	New Kenda with Parasea.	2
19.	Royal Golakdih with Royal Tisra.	2
20.	Jambad Kajora with Sitalpur.	2
21.	Pure Durgapur with Fatepur and Golden Jharia.	3
22.	M/s. New Standard Coal Co. (P) Ltd.'s Lodna with M/s. North Burra-kar Coal Co. (P) Ltd.'s Lodna and Suratand.	3
23.	Oriental with Kusumkanali.	2
24.	M/s. Amar Singh Gowamal & Sons Tisra with M/s. Dhanji Devji & Sons Tisra and M/s. Diamond Coal Co.'s Tisra.	3
25.	Indian and Central Jharia with Lower Upper Jharia.	3
26.	M/s. H. D. Agarwalla & Son's West Godhur and M/s. East India Coal Co. Ltd.'s South Bulliari Kendwadih (adjustment of boundaries).	2
27.	M/s. Khas Mehtadih Colliery Co.'s Khas Mehtadih and Selected Jamua-tand.	2
28.	M/s. West Ramkanali Colliery Co.'s West Ramkanali and Keshalpur.	2

Sl. No.	Name of collieries.	No. of collieries involved.
29.	M/s. East Angarpathra Colliery Co. (P) Ltd.'s Angarpathra and M/s. B. Trigunait & Bros.'s Angarpathra.	2
30.	Khas Jharia, New Khas Jharia and Sonalibad with M/s. Phularibad Colliery Co.'s Phularibad.	2
31.	M/s. Bhagya Laxmi Coal Co.'s Bhagya Laxmi with Sri Sri Lakshmi Narain Trust's East Kumardhubi.	2
32.	M/s. Pandabera Coal Co.'s Pandabera with M/s. Khas Basra Coal Concern's Kujama and Pandabera and M/s. Central Kujama Coal Concern's Central Kujama.	4
33.	M/s. Nath & Khas Coal Co.'s Nath Muraidih with Khas Muraidih.	2
34.	M/s. Raisahib Chandanmull Indra Kumar (P) Ltd.'s Monoharbahal with M/s. Dishergarh Coal Co.'s South Joyramdanga.	2
35.	Pure Sitalpur of M/s. Pure Sitalpur Coal Concern with Diamond Sitalpur Colliery Co. (P) Ltd.'s Diamond Sitalpur.	2
36.	Pure Burragarh with the Burragarh of Raniganj Coal Association Ltd.	2

Sl. No.	Name of collieries.	No. of collieries involved.
37.	Angarpathra Colliery of the East Angarpathra Colliery Co. (P) Ltd. with Sree Mahabir Angarpathra of Satyapal Virmani.	2
38.	Angarpathra (amalgamated) with the Kantapahari of Shri Meghji Bhimji.	2
39.	Sulanga with Golden Jeenagora of Sri Arjun Agarwalla.	2
40.	Jaipuria Kajora of M/s. Jaipuria Kajora Collieries Ltd. with the East Kajora of the East Kajora Collieries Ltd.	2
41.	The Model Joyramdih with the Central Joyramdih both belonging to M/s. Paul Brothers.	2
42.	D. Mondal & Co.'s Pure Shampur with Khas Shampur and East Badjna.	3
43.	Kuya of M/s. Kuya Collieries Co. with the Khas Kuya of M/s. Khas Kuya Colliery Co.	2
44.	Real Nandi with Ponati Mines.	2
45.	New Shikarichuck with Central Kendwadih.	2
46.	Mudidih and Budrochuck of M/s. Burrakur Coal Co.	2

Sl. No.	Name of collieries.	No. of collieries involved.
47.	North Ghanuadih with West Ghanuadih.	2
48.	Phularitand Khas with Upper Mandra.	2
49.	Bhuggatdih with Ena.	2
50.	West Salanpur with Sawria Salanpur.	2
51.	Central Kujama with K. S. Nanji's Kujama.	2
52.	Bera with 425 bighas of coal bearing land of Mouza Verakatta.	1+1 virgin land.
53.	Ranipur with a part of Deoli.	2
54.	Sendra Bansjora with Gararia (Coal Co.) and North Ekra.	3
55.	South Golukdih and Indian & Central Jharia.	2
56.	Central Kujama (amalgamated) K. S. Nanji's Kujama & Pure Kujama.	3
57.	Khas Jeenagora, Central Jeenagora and New Jeenagora.	3
58.	Selected Jharia, Selected Khas Jharia and East Bhuggatdih.	3

Sl. No.	Name of collieries.	No. of collieries involved.
59.	Victory and Liberty.	2
60.	North Kessargarth and Khas Joyramdih.	2
61.	Joyramdih, New Joyramdih and West Joyramdih.	3
62.	Kalisthan Angarpathra and West Mudidih.	2
63.	Shampur Badjna and Nayadanga.	2
64.	Angarpathra (E. A. Colliery Co.) and Jharia Khas.	2
65.	East Katras and Kailudih.	2
66.	Salanpur and New Lakurka.	2
67.	New Marine and Kirkend.	2
68.	Selected Phularitand and South Barora.	2
69.	South Barora and Mondal's Kendwadih.	2
70.	Adjustment of boundaries between Parasea and Belbaid.	2



Sl. No.	Name of collieries.	No. of collieries involved.
71.	Samdih Sangramgarh and Lalbazar.	2
72.	Central Bansjora and Selected Sendra.	2
73.	North Tentulia and North Katras.	2
74.	North Badjna and South Badjna.	2
75.	North Damuda and Kessurgarh.	2
76.	Methani & Aldih Collieries.	2
77.	A portion of Porascole Colliery with Central & Lower Jambad Colliery.	2
78.	West Ramkanali Colliery and a part of B. Roy's Ramkanali Colliery.	
79.	North Keshalpur with part of B. Roy's Ramkanali and a part of West Ramkanali Collieries.	2
80.	Khas Angarpathra with Angarpathra of East Angarpathra Colliery Co. (P) Ltd.	2
81.	Central Kessurgarh and Sri Jagannath.	2
82.	South Jharia and Model Jharia.	2

## G. COMPULSORY ACQUISITION/AMALGAMATION OF COAL MINES.

The Government of India in the Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals, Department of Mines & Metals, made a proposal in December 1969 for acquisition of coking coal collieries for development and/or scientific exploitation in the interest of conservation of scarce coking coal reserves. The Joint Working Committee was requested by Sri K. K. Dhar, Director, Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals, in his letter No. CVIII-10(3)/69 dated 26 December 1969, to attend a meeting initially fixed for January 1970 in Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi to discuss the various issues having a bearing on the proposal. But the above meeting which was postponed to 7 February 1970 was not held on that date and it has been postponed to 20 February 1970. The following note, which would serve as the basis for discussions, has been received from the Ministry:

"We have been considering in this Department ways and means to ensure that the production of coking coal comes up as planned, in a scientific manner having due regard to the conservation angle, among other factors. One of the ideas is that statutory powers should be assumed under which collieries could be directed not only to increase the production of coking coal but also to ensure scientific exploitation and conservation of scarce coking coal resources in the country."

"Cases may arise in which a particular colliery may be unwilling or unable to comply with the directions of the Government or its authorized agency regarding scientific exploitation and adoption of measures in the interest of conservation, apart from its failure to carry out the required

development programme. If a colliery fails to carry out the directions of the Government or its authorized agency in respect of the above, one of the suggestions has been that such collieries should be acquired by paying compensation."

"In pursuance of the recommendations of the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee report, a Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of the Coal Controller in 1958 to encourage voluntary amalgamation of collieries. The terms of this Committee have been extended in stages from time to time. It has been able to amalgamate 108 units into 49 units. The work of the Committee has reached a saturation point and, therefore, the question of introducing legislation with a view to bring about compulsory amalgamation of collieries has come to the fore in the context of not only development but of scientific exploitation and conservation of scarce coal resources."

"Of the total 100 coking coal mines in Jharia field about 37 produce over 10,000 tonnes per month. Preliminary study of 50 out of 63 remaining mines had shown that about 25 could be formed into 6 large units. The body set up for amalgamation could go further into this question and suggest the most technically acceptable redrawing of boundaries which would cover not only the small collieries but also larger units or parts thereof, to facilitate scientific exploitation. A comprehensive plan applicable to the entire coking coal area therefore seems to be called for."

"The management of the acquired or amalgamated units poses another problem which needs a serious consideration. One of the suggestions is that the amalgamated/acquired companies in suitable cases could be formed into jointly managed companies in which Government may hold shares,

Government shares may consist of the value of the assets of persons who are unwilling to hold shares in the amalgamated acquired companies and also by fresh investments required to develop the amalgamated/acquired mines."

"Some thought also needs to be given to the constitution of a 'Central Authority' to coordinate the problems of mining of coking coals and their beneficiation in the context of long-term requirements of the steel plants and merchant cokeries etc."

The details of the Government proposal with regard to compensation payable on acquisition of coal mines are not yet known to the Industry. The draft of the proposed legislation, indicated in paragraph 3 of the note, has not been furnished to the Joint Working Committee.

H. PAYMENT OF ARREAR AND CURRENT ROYALTY—COMPROMISE AGREEMENT—CLAIM OF 5% ROYALTY BY WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT WITH RETROSPECTIVE EFFECT FROM THE DATE OF VESTING: MEETING WITH SHRI HARE KRISHNA KONAR, MINISTER FOR LAND & LAND REVENUE AND SRI SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA, MINISTER FOR COMMERCE & INDUSTRIES.

It may be recalled that consequent on the amendment of the West Bengal Estate Acquisition Act, 1957, the question arose about entitlement to royalty as between the Government of West Bengal on the one hand and the private intermediaries on the other and as a result of litigation instituted in the Calcutta High Court by some individual collieries and also by the Indian Mining Association and Federation in

1957, the working lessees ceased payment of royalty to their immediate superior landlords, who, in turn, ceased payment to the intermediary lessees up to the lessors of the first degree thus creating a complete stalemate regarding payment of royalty. Attempts were therefore made to explore the possibilities of an amicable settlement without prejudice to the rights and contentions of the parties to the existing suits in appeal cases pending before the Calcutta High Court. After a series of meetings, the last of which was held in the room of the Secretary, the Government of West Bengal, Commerce and Industries Department, Mines, on 31 March 1966, a draft deed of agreement was approved on the basis of which the compromise proposals were to be given effect to. The terms of the compromise proposal were embodied in a communication, No. 1577-Mines-3R-15/66 dated 23 April 1966, addressed by Sri C. R. Gautam, the then Assistant Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Commerce & Industries Department, Mines, to the Secretary, Joint Working Committee, embodying the details of the compromise proposal to the Coal Industry for smooth and quick collection of royalty, etc. The J.W.C. was advised to issue necessary instructions to the lessees concerned accordingly. The J.W.C. was also advised to instruct the working lessees to submit immediately to the Chief Mining Officer, Asansol, all connected documents and royalty statements that might be required by the Chief Mining Officer in this regard. The working lessees and their superior lessors or parties in interest (intermediaries) were also advised to immediately draw the deed of agreement in terms of the draft enclosed therewith and submit all relative facts and figures required for execution of deeds to the Chief Mining Officer, Government of West Bengal. The gist of the compromise agreement in terms of the above settlement is given below:



1. *From 15 April 1955 to December 1961:*  
Working lessees to pay rents and royalties to the intermediate lessees and lessees of the first degree in 36 equal instalments in lieu of their due compensation under the Act.
2. *From January 1962 to 31-12-1965:*  
Working lessees to pay all rents and royalties direct to the Government of West Bengal in 36 equal instalments.
3. *From 1 January 1966 to 30 June 1966:*  
Working lessees to pay to the State Government rents and royalties at the rate of 5% of the F.O.R. price of coal despatched in 36 equal instalments.
4. *From 1 July 1966:*  
All working lessees to pay to the State Government royalty at 5% of the F.O.R. price of coal according to the provisions of their leases.
5. Payment if effected in 36 equal monthly instalments will be free of interest provided payments are regular.

A long-standing and highly complicated dispute was thus settled to the best advantage of the working lessees, intermediaries and also the State Governments. It was also agreed that all cases and all appeals in the Calcutta High Court should be withdrawn and disputes be settled.

In pursuance of the above agreement 143 collieries have so far submitted documents which have already been scrutinized and are awaiting execution.



Most of the collieries have also been making payment of arrears and current royalty in terms of the above agreement. The Industry had also been pressing the State Government for several years for execution of the document at an early date. But the representatives of the Industry were most surprised and seriously concerned at the contemplated action of the State Government in the compromise agreement entered into in April 1966 between the State of West Bengal and the Coal Industry, particularly in view of the fact that in terms of the agreement a large number of collieries had already made payment of huge amounts of royalty, both arrear and current, and submitted the compromise agreement to the State Government.

At a meeting held between Sri Hare Krishna Konar, Minister for Land & Land Revenue, and Sri Sushil Kumar Dhara, Minister for Commerce & Industry, and the representatives of the Coal Industry on 14 September 1969 in the office of the Chief Mining Officer, Asansol, Sri Konar expressed the following view:

"The question of payment of royalty should be viewed from a new basis. Then the relationship with the Coal Industry would be better. We have discussed this problem in the Cabinet also. We have decided that we shall realize the royalty to which we are legally entitled."

"We want to establish relationship with the Coal Industry on a new basis. The Supreme Court has given us the right to collect royalty dues at 5% with retrospective effect from the date of vesting. The people will ask us why we forewent this amount to which we were legally entitled?"

Sri Sushil Kumar Dhara, Minister for Commerce & Industries, stated that "the Cabinet decided that we two Ministries should see you to put joint pressure on you for the purpose of realization." It was stated on behalf of the Industry that it was simply impossible for the collieries to make payment of royalty at the rate of 5% with retrospective effect which would amount to Rs. 11 crores for West Bengal and Rs. 22 crores for Bihar. It was pointed out that collieries accounts had been closed and appropriations had been duly made during the relevant period when the prices of coal were rigidly controlled and the incidence of additional cost of production on account of such royalty at the enhanced rate was not at all provided in the then controlled prices. It was further stated that the question regarding claim of royalty at 5% from the date of vesting, i.e. with retrospective effect in respect of statutory leases was considered at a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Coal Advisory Council held on 5 September 1969 at New Delhi, and consideration of the question which was sub-judice before the Patna High Court was deferred.

It will be relevant to recall that a meeting was held earlier between Sri Sushil Kumar Dhara, Minister for Commerce & Industries, Government of West Bengal, and other Government representatives and the coal producers, on 9 April 1969 in the office of the Chief Mining Officer, Asansol, to discuss royalty matters and other problems of the Coal Industry. Sri N. B. Lall Singha, President, Raniganj Coal-field Committee of the Federation, took the Chair at the meeting. Tracing the history of the compromise agreement between the Government, the Coal Industry and the intermediaries, it was stated that by this compromise agreement the Government was in a position to collect about 2/3rds of the total arrear royalty which had accumulated for the last 11 years. It was further stated that a large number of collieries

were hard put to it to pay both arrear instalments and the current royalty. The Industry therefore pressed for immediate execution of the compromise agreements submitted to the Government several months back. It was further stated that already 30 out of 36 instalments had been paid by a majority of the collieries and that the instalments would be paid in full within the next 6 months. It was unfortunate that the Government of West Bengal did not honour the settlement by promptly executing the documents. It was pointed out by the Industry that owing to the recession and consequent unsatisfactory demand for coal during the last few years, it was not possible for many collieries to fulfil all the demands of paying up to date royalties to the Government.

Sri A. K. Mukherjee, Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department, however, gave an assurance to the Industry that most of the agreements submitted to the Government would be executed very soon. It was stated by Sri Mukherjee that out of 230 collieries only 143 collieries had so far submitted documents and these documents had already been scrutinized and were awaiting execution. Sri Dhara also requested the members of the Joint Working Committee to persuade their members who were in default of payment of royalties to make good the arrears and help the Government in their collection drive. Sri Dhara also assured the Industry that the Government was very eager to help the Industry to flourish and desired its co-operation in all matters. His Ministry would very soon appoint a few advisory committees in which both the Government and Industry would be represented to discuss the problems of different industries, and for proper co-ordination he was thinking of opening an office at New Delhi to take up the cases with the Central Government for prompt disposal. This would help the Industry and the State Government to resolve all matters relating to Central subjects.

The Industry also drew the attention of Sri Dhara to the deteriorating law and order situation in the coalfield. Sri Dhara requested a statement of incidents that took place during the United Front regime in 1969 and said that his Ministry would look into it. A representation was later made to Sri Sushil Kumar Dhara giving a detailed account of the incidents that took place during the time. But no effective steps have so far been taken in this regard and the law and order situation has gradually worsened in the coalfield as described in detail in the Report under the heading of "Law and Order Situation in the Raniganj Coalfield—1969".

In the context of the clear statements made by Sri Sushil Kumar Dhara, Minister for Commerce & Industries, on the question of payment of arrear and current royalty in terms of the compromise agreement, the stand taken at the subsequent meeting, held on 14 September 1969, by Sri Harekrishna Konar, Minister for Land & Land Revenue, and Sri Dhara, attempting to repudiate the terms of the compromise agreement, hardly makes any sense.

At the instant request of the J.W.C., another meeting was held between Sri Sushil Kumar Dhara, Minister for Commerce & Industries, and the representatives of the Industry at Writers' Building on 18 November 1969. Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman, Sri J. N. Mookherjee, and Sri Pritamlal Chanchani attended the above meeting as representatives of the Federation. It was stated by the spokesman of the Industry that in terms of the compromise agreement with the Government of West Bengal, negotiated in 1966, many collieries had submitted the necessary documents to the State Government, but these had not been executed by the Government. It was recalled that at the previous meeting held in Asansol on 14 September 1969, the Industry had been ad-



vised that the Government intended to repudiate this Agreement which had been arrived at after litigation and after considerable negotiation and it now appeared that the Government of West Bengal intended to claim royalty at 5% with retrospective effect on the basis of an incorrect interpretation of the Supreme Court decision. The Industry had been asked whether it accepted the new situation. In view, however, of the judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of Baijunath Kedia's appeal from the judgment of the Patna High Court and the case of the Sone Valley Portland Cement Co. Ltd. Vs. The General Mining Syndicate (P) Ltd., in the Calcutta High Court, it was very difficult for the Industry to accept the contention that royalty is payable at 5% of the F.O.R. price with retrospective effect. The Government of Bihar's demand in this regard had been challenged in the Patna High Court the Chief Justice of which has constituted a larger Bench to consider the matter. These legal developments had raised doubts as to whether the royalty preferred under the Compromise Agreement should be paid or not, besides casting doubt on the validity of the claim for 5% royalty with retrospective effect.

The position arising out of the Baijnath Kedia decision of the Supreme Court and the Calcutta High Court's decision in The Sone Valley Portland Cement case was discussed briefly. It was pointed out that the effect of these decisions was that the 1964 amendment to the West Bengal Estates Acquisition Act was invalid and the Government could not collect royalties directly from sub-lessees.

It was pointed out that the purpose of the Compromise Agreement was to clarify a doubtful situation so that the Government could collect revenue and the collieries could know their position. The Industry expressed its faith in the

Government by honouring at least some of the Compromise Agreements. If the Compromise agreements were honoured, payments of royalty would continue. If it were repudiated there would be no alternative to litigation and payments would in all probability cease. It was pointed out that there were three main categories of owners. One group had paid all their dues under the Compromise Agreement. Another group had paid some of their dues but because of genuine difficulties had not been able to maintain their payments. Thirdly, there were those who had no intention of paying royalty in accordance with the Compromise Agreement and had not paid anything at all.

On behalf of the Government it was stated that figures showed that only 40% of the collieries were paying royalty in accordance with the Compromise Agreement but these collieries accounted for 60% of the royalty due. It was pointed out that of the 40% who were not paying royalty, some had obtained their leases after 1955, others had paid some of their dues but for genuine reasons had not been able to maintain payments, while only a few did not intend to pay at all. Furthermore, some owners had paid their dues up to date but had been included among those who had not paid, merely because the records were not complete. It appeared that the records of the Sub-Divisional Land Reforms Officer were behind date by even as much as two years. These different categories could not be lumped together and criticized for not maintaining their payments under the Agreement.

It was also stated that it was understood that the Central Government intended to address the State Governments suggesting that the State Government's claim for royalty at 5% with retrospective effect should be compromised on the



basis of an agreement, the terms of which would be indicated by the Central Government in due course. This appeared to be a satisfactory arrangement which could meet the legal position, the claim of the State Government and the view point of the Industry that it was never intended that royalty should be paid at 5% with retrospective effect from the date of vesting.

Reference was also made to the appeals in the Calcutta High Court on the subject of royalty which were due to be heard on or about 19 November. It was suggested that both parties to the appeal should ask the Court for an extension of time, otherwise the case would be taken to issue and this would merely result in further complications. A decision either way would be subject to appeal and nothing would be gained. It was agreed that the Ministry of Commerce & Industry would take the matter up with the Land Revenue Department.

On behalf of the Government of West Bengal it was pointed out that a Cabinet decision had been taken to repudiate the Compromise Agreement. While the matter could be reopened with the Cabinet, it would be undesirable to do so until the Central Government's note on compromise settlement had been received. The matter would be given further consideration thereafter.

#### I. STUDY GROUP'S REPORT: REVISION OF STOWING SUBSIDY AND ASSISTANCE FOR DIFFICULT MINING CONDITIONS.

It may be recalled that the Government of India set up in March, 1966 a Study Group under the Chairmanship of

Sri A. B. Ganguli to review the prices of coal and coke and some other allied matters. The Study Group submitted its report in October, 1966. The Group had considered in a general way the expenditure the collieries had to incur on stowing and had stated that the collieries were generally incurring loss on these operations, which, to a large extent, offset their profit on normal mining operations. The rates of subsidy already being given to the collieries for stowing, it said, needed upward revision.

In November 1966, therefore, the Study Group was further asked to go into this question and the question of special assistance for adverse mining factors. The Group was also asked to recommend how the extra cost, if any, arising from its recommendations should be met. The adverse mining factors include gassy nature of coal mines, depth of shafts, inclinations of seams, transportation cost from pithead to railhead, pumping cost and thinness of seams. The Group was asked also to go into the question of fixation of rates for auxiliary transport of sands from the Coal Board dumps to pitheads and the desirability of allowing stowing in thin seams in Bengal/Bihar coalfields.

The Group submitted its report to the Ministry in September, 1968. This report was examined by the Department of Mines and Metals in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

The Government of India has accepted with some minor modifications the recommendations made by the Study Group on stowing subsidy and other forms of assistance to coal industry.

In view of the complicated nature of the present position regarding reimbursement of sand royalty, the Government has agreed that the Coal Board should pay sand royalty in all cases in addition to the stowing subsidy payable to individual collieries.

The Group has revised the ceiling rates for reimbursing the cost of transportation of sand by trucks from river bed to the colliery bunkers and has recommended a rate structure based on each kilometre of distance. The new rate of subsidy rises from Rs. 2/- per cubic metre of sand for 1 km. distance to Rs. 6.40 for a distance of over 16 kms. Revised ceiling rates for transportation of sand by trucks from the Coal Board's storage points to the bunkers of collieries, and for the transportation of sand by different modes of mechanised transport, have also been suggested.

The Group has not recommended any change in the ceiling rates for underground stowing costs. According to the Group, as the cost of underground operation has no relationship to the material used, the rate worked out for use of sand should be valid for all types of material. The recommended ceiling for rate is Rs. 2.17 for mines upto 245 metres. The Group has found no justification for raising the consolidated rates, covering surface transportation of stowing material and for underground operations, but has recommended that the royalty for the sand used should be paid over and above the ceiling rates. The Government has, however, abolished consolidated rates for sand and decided that the split rates should be treated as fixed rates. This, in the opinion of the Government, will simplify the procedures and also encourage the collieries to adopt cost reduction measures.

As the rising cost of stowing has been pushing the coal prices higher, the Group has recommended adoption of a more economical method of controlled roof caving. Wherever it is possible to introduce this method, it should be insisted upon and the change-over effected over a period of ten years. A special subsidy at the rate of 80 paise per tonne of coal reclaimed has been recommended in place of the stowing subsidy. The Government is, however, considering the significance of this method in the context of the threatened shortage of sand and has decided that the subsidy should be available upto the extent of what would have been admissible if stowing had been adopted.

As for assistance with regard to the expenditure incurred to overcome the adverse mining factors, the Group is of the opinion that the costs incurred in category I mines for measures against gassiness should be treated as part of the general cost of coal raising and should not qualify for assistance. But, in regard to all mines of category 2, 3 and 4, the Group has worked out the element of costs for which assistance should be given and has recommended the ceiling rates. The Government has decided that the mines of category 2, 3 and 4 may be given subsidy at prescribed fixed rates.

The Group has not felt the need for changing the existing rates of assistance given with regard to depth of shafts. The Government has agreed that the coal produced from depths may be subsidised at the prescribed slab rates depending upon the depth of workings, irrespective of whether raising was done through shaft or not.

As for pumping costs and thinness of seams, increased rates have been recommended. Certain increases have been



recommended in respect of assistance for pumping where the pumping cost does not exceed Rs. 3 per tonne, and the current rates of subsidy for thin seams have been recommended to be increased by 25 per cent in certain cases and 50 per cent in others. No change in the existing rates has been considered necessary for inclination of seams and for high transportation cost from pithead to railhead.

At a meeting held with the Chairman, Coal Board on 30 October 1969 it was pointed out by the Industry that the report of the Study Group was based on the data available about two years ago and since then the cost of transportation had considerably gone up owing to soaring prices of tyres, tubes, lubricant, petrol, diesel, labour wages, etc., the impact of which on the cost of production should also be considered by the Coal Board.

Although an assurance was given by the then Ministry of Mines and Metals that the Industry would be given an opportunity to discuss and consider the recommendations of the Study Group before they were accepted by the Government, it is unfortunate that the recommendations with minor modifications were applied to the Industry without consulting it. Some apparent irregularities in the way of fixation of ceiling rates of assistance on the basis of the recommendations of the Study Group could have been rectified on mutual discussions over the table. For example, in accordance with the proviso regarding the ceiling rates previously fixed by the Coal Board collieries had already executed agreements with sand transporting contractors for the financial year ending 31 March 1970 at rates which were admittedly higher than the revised rates as recently laid down in terms of the Study Group's recommendations. For instance, the ceiling rate of assistance by trucks, tractors and trailers which was previously Rs. 6.40 beyond 11.2 k.m. has now been reduced.

to Rs. 5.35 for transport above 11 k.m. upto 12 k.m. In consequence of this, collieries will have to incur loss since they have to meet the contractors' bills at the older and higher rates even for the period from 1st January to 31st March 1970 in terms of the agreement already executed with the contractors. Attention of the Chairman has been drawn to the above difficulties so that the revised rates might be effective from 1 April 1970 instead of from 1 January 1970.

#### J. ASSISTANCE TOWARDS INDIRECT CHARGES FOR VOLUNTARY STOWING.

Circumstances beyond the control of member collieries sometimes make it almost impossible for them to submit claims for assistance for stowing on the dot. The Coal Board certainly is within its right in refusing to entertain claims received after the due date. But when the period of delay is very short, say, not more than a week, it would be extremely harsh if rules are enforced rigidly. Cases have been reported to the Federation that even a day's delay in submitting such claims has not been condoned by the Coal Board.

A representation was made by Sri V. K. Poddar, Federation's Chairman, to Sri K. K. Ray, Chairman, Coal Board, in his D.O. letter No. 580A/1819 dated 9 November 1968, pointing out the fact that it was hard for the collieries these days to find the liquid resources for day-to-day operation, particularly for collieries who have fully implemented the Wage Board award. In view of the fact and also the possibility of arrears and lapses on the part of the subordinate staff of the collieries, who are not always amiable to strict discipline, it was urged that cases of delay in submitting claims, when the delay is really very short, should be considered with a certain amount of leniency.



On the representation made by the Federation, the Coal Board communicated its decision, in its letter No. IND/CH/ dated 25.6.69, to condone delay up to three months in the submission of returns from the due date in respect of indirect charges claims of past years.

The Board also decided to extend the due date for submission of indirect charges returns up to four months in place of the existing prescribed period of three months after the close of the financial year to which they relate and also authorized the Chairman to condone delay up to two months beyond the prescribed period of four months after the close of the financial year depending on the merit of each individual case.

All refused indirect charges claims in respect of the year 1964-65, 1965-66 and 1966-67 have been or are being regulated in the light of the above decision of the Board.

#### K. REVISION OF THE CEILING RATES OF ASSISTANCE FOR HYDRAULIC STOWING WITH SAND.

Based on the recommendations of the Study Group the Government of India in the Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals, (Department of Mines & Metals), in pursuance of the provisions of sub-rule (1) of rule 53 of the Coal Mines (Conservation & Safety) Rules, 1954, has revised the following rate and terms in respect of grant of assistance by the Coal Board for stowing, both voluntary as

well as compulsory, to any owner, agent or manager of a coal mine.

Material for use in stowing and type of stowing.	Rate per cubic metre of material stowed.
Hydraulic stowing with crushed material	Rs. 4.55
Dry stowing (packing)	Rs. 3.77

Actual royalty on stowing material, should be reimbursed over and above the above rates.

The surface cost of stowing with sand or with the mixture of sand and ash, as admitted by the Board, shall be reimbursed at the following rates:

#### SURFACE OPERATIONS

Distance transported.	Sand per cu.m.	Rates of assistance Sand and ash per cu.m. (ash upto 40% by volume)	
	(1)	(2)	
		Rs. Paise	Rs. Paise
<i>A. Transport by aerial ropeways.</i>			
Upto 5 K.M.		2.50	2.00
Above 5 K.M. but not exceeding 10 K.M.		3.20	2.60
Beyond 10 K. M.		3.50	2.80

**B. *Transport by trucks, tractors and trailers.***

Upto 1 K.M.	2.00	1.60
Above 1 K.M. upto 2 K.M.	2.40	1.95
" 2 K.M. " 3 K.M.	2.75	2.25
" 3 K.M. " 4 K.M.	3.10	2.50
" 4 K.M. " 5 K.M.	3.45	2.75
" 5 K.M. " 6 K.M.	3.75	3.00
" 6 K.M. " 7 K.M.	4.05	3.25
" 7 K.M. " 8 K.M.	4.35	3.50
" 8 K.M. " 9 K.M.	4.60	3.70
" 9 K.M. " 10 K.M.	4.85	3.90
" 10 K.M. " 11 K.M.	5.10	4.10
" 11 K.M. " 12 K.M.	5.35	4.30
" 12 K.M. " 13 K.M.	5.60	4.50
" 13 K.M. " 14 K.M.	5.80	4.65
" 14 K.M. " 15 K.M.	6.00	4.80
" 15 K.M. " 16 K.M.	6.20	4.95
" 16 K.M.	6.40	5.10

**C. *Transport by locomotive*  
(Steam or diesel)**

Upto 2 K.M.	2.60	2.10
Above 2 K.M. upto 5 K.M.	3.50	2.80
" 5 K.M. " 10 K.M.	4.30	3.45
" 10 K.M.	4.80	3.85

**D. *Transport by rope haulage***

Upto 1.5 K.M.	2.00	1.60
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*E. Transport by belt conveyor*

Upto 250 metres	1.40	1.10
Above 250 metres but not exceeding 750 metres	1.80	1.45
Above 750 metres	2.00	1.60

The above rates of assistance will be exclusive of royalty charges, which will be reimbursed in full.

The assistance in respect of stowing with all types of material for underground cost shall be as follows:

UNDERGROUND OPERATIONS	Rate per cu.m.
(A) For depth of mine undertaking stowing upto and inclusive of 245 metres	2.17
(B) For depth exceeding 245 metres	3.42

The following rates for the auxiliary transport, where mechanised system of sand transportation is adopted by the collieries, will be admitted:

<i>Mode of transport.</i>	Rate per cubic metre. Rs. paise per K.M.	
Aerial ropeway	0.20	per K.M.
Trucks	0.40	per K.M.
Locomotives	0.30	per K.M.
Rope haulage	0.35	per K.M.
Belt conveyor	0.35	per K.M.

The following rates will, however, apply for auxiliary transport of sand from Coal Board's Ropeway system to colliery bunkers:

<i>Distance</i>	<i>Rate per cubic metre.</i>
Upto 1 K.M.	0.85
Above 1 K.M. upto 2 K.M.	1.20
" 2 K.M. " 3 K.M.	1.55
" 3 K.M. " 4 K.M.	1.85
" 4 K.M. " 5 K.M.	2.15
" 5 K.M.	2.45

*Controlled roof caving:* A careful study of all the stowing collieries should be made by a Study Team to be set up by the Coal Board and collieries, where the new method can be followed, should be listed by this Study Team. In all cases of new applications for stowing subsidy, if controlled roof caving is feasible, this method must be insisted. The rate of assistance for this method will be the actual expenditure limited to what would have been admissible if sand stowing was adopted.

#### L. REVISION OF SUBSIDY BY THE COAL BOARD TO COLLIERIES SPECIALLY HANDICAPPED BY ADVERSE FACTORS.

Similarly, in pursuance of the recommendations of the Study Group the Government of India in the Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals, (Department of Mines & Metals), in its letter No. C5-13(9)/68-I dated 20 September 1969, prescribed the following revised scales of assistance for underground and open cast workings in regard to various adverse factors with effect from 1 January 1970.

In its letter No. SA-712/II dated 13 October 1969, the Coal Board informed the Federation that as the revised scales of assistance prescribed by the Central Government will come into force with effect from 1.1.1970, all applications for difficult mining cases for the quarter ending March 1970 will be processed in accordance with the revised scales of assistance.

Rate of assistance  
per tonne of coal.  
Rs. paise

- (a) Gassy nature of coal mines (subject to it being established that additional expenditure has to be incurred by collieries under this head).

(i) Category I Mines	...	Nil
(ii) Category II Mines	...	0.80
(iii) Category III and IV Mines		0.90

- (b) *Depth of workings*:—No assistance will be admissible in the case of workings at a depth 150 metres from surface or less. In respect of workings more than 150 metres in depth, assistance shall be admissible for each 30 metres of depth or part thereof over the first 150 metres at

0.06

- (c) *Inclination of seams*:—No assistance shall be granted in cases where the true gradient of the



seam is less than 1 in 3. For seams with 1 in 3 or steeper true gradients, assistance shall be admissible at

0.24

(d) *Pumping Cost*:—No assistance shall be granted in cases in which the cost of pumping is Rs. 1/- per tonne or less of coal raised.

(i) Where the cost of pumping exceeds Re. 1/- per tonne, but does not exceed Rs. 2/- per tonne of coal raised, assistance shall be admissible at

40% of the cost of pumping exceeding Re. 1/- per tonne.

(ii) Where the cost of pumping exceeds Rs. 2/- per tonne of coal raised, assistance shall be admissible at

40 paise plus 30% of the cost of pumping exceeding Rs. 2/- per tonne subject to a maximum total assistance of Rs. 0.70 p.

Note:—(1) In calculating the cost, miscellaneous cost for leave, bonus, etc. should be computed at 25% of the wage cost and supervision charges at 4% of the total cost;

(2) All the water pumped out, excluded the water used for stowing should be taken into account;

(3) In collieries working more than one seam some of which are not eligible for assistance, the quantity of water pumped and of the coal raised

for the colliery as a whole, should be taken into account and if the cost exceeds Re.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per tonne of coal raised, the assistance should be granted at the permissible rate for the quantity of coal raised from the eligible seam.

Rate of assistance  
per tonne of coal.  
Rs. paise

- (c) *Thinnes of Seams*:—No assistance shall be admissible where the thickness of seam is 1.5 metre or more.

(i) In the case of seams of thickness exceeding 1 metre but less than 1.5 metre, assistance will be admissible at

0.75

(ii) In the case of seams of thickness equal to or less than 1 metre, assistance shall be admissible at ...

1.80

- (f) *High transportation cost from pit-head to rail-head*:—Assistance shall be granted only in cases where coal is despatched by rail and the distance between the pit-head and the nearest available loading point is more than 3 miles (i.e. 4.83 kilometres). In such cases assistance shall be granted at a rate not exceeding 15 paise per tonne per mile or part thereof in respect of the distance in excess of the first 3 miles (4.83 kilometres).

3. The Central Government are also pleased to prescribe the following scales of assistance for open cast mines (quarries) in regard to the adverse factor 'pumping cost' with effect from 1.1.1970, in substitution of the scales prescribed in the late Ministry of Mines and Fuel, letter No. C5-13(11)/62, dated the 31st October, 1962, namely:—

(2) *Pumping Cost*:—No assistance shall be granted in cases in which the cost of pumping is Re. 1/- per tonne or less of coal raised.

(i) Where the cost of pumping exceeds Rs. 1/- per tonne but does not exceed Rs. 2/- per tonne of coal raised assistance shall be admissible at 30% of the cost of pumping exceeding Re. 1/- per tonne.

(ii) Where the pumping cost exceeds Rs. 2/- per tonne of coal raised, assistance shall be admissible at 30 paise plus 20% of the cost of pumping exceeding Rs. 2/- per tonne subject to a maximum total assistance of Rs. 0.50 p.

#### M. DELAY IN PAYMENT OF SUBSIDY FOR GASSINESS AND DIFFICULT MINING CONDITIONS.

Collieries had been experiencing difficulties on account of the inordinate delay in obtaining payment of subsidies for gassiness and difficult mining conditions. Most of the collieries did not receive any payment even in December 1969 for the quarters ending March and June. It was understood

that the delay was due to non-availability and inadequate overall allocation of funds. In the net result, most of the collieries were just not in a position to meet their statutory obligations such as payment of royalty, provident fund dues, wages to the workmen, etc. Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman, wrote a D.O. letter No. 1726 dated 17.12.69 to Sri Jagannath Rao, Minister of State for Petro-chemicals, Mines & Metals, Government of India, with a copy to Sri P. C. Sethi, State Minister for Finance, Government of India, drawing his attention to the difficulties of collieries and requesting prompt action for allocation of adequate funds to enable the Coal Board to make speedy payment of subsidies to the collieries for gassiness and other difficult mining conditions.

In his D.O. letter No. C5-2(19)/69 dated 26.12.69, written in reply to the Chairman's representation, Sri K. K. Dhar, Director, Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals, stated that additional funds to the extent of Rs. 60 lakhs had been placed at the disposal of the Coal Board for payment of claims in connexion with subsidy for difficult mining conditions.

The above amount of Rs. 60 lakhs was just enough to cover payment of subsidies for difficult mining conditions only for the quarter ending March 1969. Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman, in his D.O. letter No. 44 dated 7.1.70 addressed to Sir K. K. Dhar, pointed out that unless additional funds were placed at the disposal of the Coal Board, it would not be possible for them to make payment even for the quarter ending June, 1969. He therefore requested Sri Dhar to give this matter his urgent consideration and make adequate funds available to the Coal Board for payment of subsidies which were long overdue.

In his D.O. letter dated 15.1.70 Sri Poddar also drew the attention of Sri P. C. Sethi, to the above fact and stated that a sum of at least Rs. 1.90 crores was required to bring the payments upto date. It was understood that a budget for the amount had been duly placed by the Ministry of Mines for necessary action.

#### N. RE-IMBURSEMENT OF SAND STOWING COSTS.

Collieries have had to suffer owing to the steady increase in stowing expenses during the past few years which have not been re-imbursed in terms of the subsidy scheme. Even in many cases of re-imbursement the amount applied for has been substantially reduced on technical grounds, the net effect being that adequate measures for the conservation of coal reserves cannot be adopted by the collieries. A memorandum on the subject, emphasizing this fact and also the need for conserving blendable coal or better grades of non-coking coal besides pure coking coal, was submitted to the Coal Board by the Joint Working Committee under cover of its letter No. 40-A/321 dated 17 April 1969. The main points of the memorandum are given below:

Sand stowing started in India over 50 years ago, and sand stowing subsidies were first introduced about 30 years ago based on the report of the Coal Mining Committee of 1937 with the intention to secure safety in the mines. At that time, stowing costs were only partly neutralized. By the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act of 1952, which came into effect from 1954, stowing subsidy rates were revised to 75% or 85% of actual costs.



All formulae seeking reimbursement of stowing costs take into account only direct expenditure. No account is taken of the cost of supervision at levels higher than the immediate supervisors engaged directly in the stowing work. It can be safely established that about one-third of the working faces in a stowing colliery are idle at any one time. A colliery which is practising stowing can only expect to produce about two-thirds of the output of a colliery similarly laid out, but which does not need to stow. Another reason for a stowing colliery being non-economical is that a stowing colliery handles more material for the same output.

The importance of stowing in Indian collieries cannot be over-stressed. The seams are thick and the partings between the seams in most cases are small. In the interest of conservation and safety, it is not possible to extract coal from such seams without stowing. Most of the collieries that are doing stowing are producing coking coal, blendable coal and also producing better grades of non-coking coal. All these coals are essential in the interest of national economy and the production of these collieries must not only be kept up but increased to a very large extent to meet the future demands of the industries.

In this connexion, it is pertinent to point out that coking coal production reached a maximum of 17.49 million tonnes in the year 1963-64. The production for the year 1967-68 was only 16.12 million tonnes. There has therefore been a drop in production of the order of 1.27 million tonnes in four years. This trend must be reversed if production is to reach 21.39 million tonnes in the year 1970-71 as assessed by the Planning Group on Coal.



The production for 1967-68 was 16.12 million tonnes. This means that this year there will be a surplus of nearly 3.65 million tonnes in coking coals over the demand, but in 1970-71, there will be a shortage of nearly 5.27 million tonnes. It is, therefore, essential that attempts be made to increase the production by proper planning and taking advance action in intensifying production as well as opening new areas on new mines. As the private sector is not permitted to open new mines and are limited to vertical expansion, they have to adopt more intensive stowing. This can only be undertaken if such losses, as described above, are adequately neutralized, as envisaged by the Coal Price Revision Committee.

The Study Group has expressed the view that collieries are, on the whole, losing Rs. 2.82 per tonne of coal won as a result of stowing operations. Even after taking into account the coal won by stowing, the collieries which are resorted to stowing have practically no profit margin left on the stowed coal. The profit on normal coal raising is offset to a large extent in many cases by the losses incurred by stowing. Under the present-day conditions, there is quite a substantial gap between the actual expenditure and the allowable reimbursement. The ceiling fixed under many of the sub-heads need to be raised in accordance with the present-day costs so as to neutralize the losses on stowing. We think any revision of the rates must be based on a proper cost examination.

To substantiate its contention that the present rates fixed by the Coal Board are quite inadequate, the Industry wishes to submit the following factors for serious consideration:

- (a) Restrictions imposed by rigid application of Rules in Board's Manual relating to admissible costs.

- (b) Differences arise because the stowing expenditure is compiled on the basis of actual expenditure incurred whereas expenditure allowed by the Coal Board is based on an anticipated procedure laid down in the Board's Manual.
- (c) It is clear that three separate issues are involved. These are:
- (i) In the case of sand-stowing collieries where the expenditure is allowed by the Board, the rate of assistance is reduced to a figure below the maximum of Rs. 4.15 per cubic metre. This maximum itself needs revision.
  - (ii) In the case of collieries qualifying for assistance at the maximum rate of Rs. 4.15 per cubic metre, the assistance received falls short of the expenditure allowed by the Board.
  - (iii) In all cases, the assistance received is considerably less than actual expenditure.
- (d) Moreover, expenditure disallowed is generally common to most stowing collieries.

The Coal Price Revision Committee and the Tariff Commission have both accepted the principle that the losses in stowing should be *fully neutralized*, with ceilings only to obviate inefficient and extravagant working. In this context, the word 'subsidy' is a misnomer, because the losses would be partly and not fully neutralized. The Joint Working Committee therefore suggests that the word 'subsidy' should not be used, and that the nomenclature "neutralization of sand-stowing losses" or "reimbursement of sand-stowing costs" would be more appropriate.

**O. RELEASE OF BANK GUARANTEES GIVEN BY COLLIERY COMPANIES IN RESPECT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RELEASED TO THEM FROM THE IBRB LOAN.**

As mentioned in the report of the previous year the Federation made a representation to the Coal Controller for release and payment of the amount locked up in the form of Bank Guarantee executed by those collieries who have duly complied with and discharged all the obligations indicated in the Guarantee Bond and those who have performed and observed all the obligations and conditions mentioned in the Bond and for whom there remains nothing to be done or performed at present or in future. A letter, No. DCP/AC(DS)/WB/BOND/Release dated 1 July 1969, received from the Joint Deputy Coal Controller (P), stated that the amount of security deposit could not be refunded before 15 May 1976 in view of the fact that the currency of the Bond would subsist till 15 May 1976. Subsequent to the above reply a further representation was made by Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman, to Sri K. K. Ray, I.A.S., Coal Controller, in a letter No. 675/1161 dated 6 August 1969, in which it was pointed out that considering the purpose and objective and the conditions imposed under the Bond which was undoubtedly to ensure compliance with the conditions mentioned in the Bond, there was no point in detaining the security deposit of collieries who had already complied with those conditions. It was emphasized by the Chairman in the above letter that there was no reason in withholding payment of the amount of the Guarantee Bond of collieries who had long ago duly complied with and discharged and performed and observed all the obligations mentioned in the Guarantee Bond and for whom there remains nothing to be done at present or in future. There was thus no point in merely sticking to the letter of law without any consideration of the objective for which the Guarantee Bond was executed. Replying to the letter of the Chairman, the Dy.

Coal Controller in his letter No. DCP/FO/WB/BOND/4-C/1741 dated 15 October 1969 regretted his inability to reconsider the matter and asked the collieries to wait till May 1976 only when the office of the Coal Controller would be in a position to decide whether to refund or to forfeit the security deposits. Pursuing this matter, the Chairman, in his D.O. letter dated 8 November 1969, asked Sri G. D. Ghatak, Dy. Coal Controller (P), to consider the question of refund at least to those collieries who had complied with the terms and conditions of the Bond. The matter is still under consideration of the Government.

#### P. INCOME-TAX RULES, 1962—RATES OF DEPRECIATION ALLOWANCES.

Under the present Income Tax Rules governing companies and firms, the expenditure incurred for acquiring a mining lease viz., premium, stamp duty, etc. and the expenditure incurred for winning and prospecting minerals including drilling and other connected expenses are treated as of a capital nature and no deduction is allowed from the Revenue Account in respect thereof for the purpose of taxation. Besides, in cases where the occurrence of mineral is erratic or the property is full of faults, neither the depreciation nor the development rebate is allowed. The result is that at the end of the period when all the mineral content in the leasehold area is exhausted so much of the capital would remain unredeemed and the mining companies would find it extremely difficult to write off those expenses. Furthermore, these expenses, not being treated as revenue expenditure, are not taken into account by the cost accountants while costing is done.

All these points were specifically dealt with by the



Federation in answer to the questionnaire issued in connexion with the review of Income-tax Rules, 1962 submitted to the Secretary to the Government of India, Central Board of Direct Taxes, New Delhi, in its letter No. 2069 dated 24 August 1966. In its letter No. 354/208 dated 9 February 1969, addressed to the Government of India, Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals, (Department of Mines and Metals), New Delhi, the Federation urged the latter to take up the case with the Ministry of Finance for necessary relief to the difficulties specially experienced by the Coal Mining Industry. Sri M. S. K. Ramaswamy, Deputy Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals, in his letter No. C-24-26(6)68 dated 23.4.69, referred to the budget speech for 1969-70 in which the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance had stated that the Government intend to introduce in Parliament a comprehensive Bill to amend the Income-tax Act to provide for amortization of expenses which are not admissible items of deductions for the purposes of computation of taxable income or are not eligible for any depreciation allowance. It was also stated in the above letter of the Ministry that the classification of different items of machinery for purposes of depreciation was also being considerably simplified and the general rate for plant and machinery raised. Further to the above letter the Federation addressed another letter No. 354/713 dated 15 May 1969 to the Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals, drawing its attention to the fact that "mining being a wasting asset requires large resources for proper development and unless depletion allowance is made admissible public money cannot be attracted towards the development of an asset which is bound to be exhausted. The practical difficulties now being experienced by the Coal Mining Industry have all been categorically mentioned in answer to the questionnaire issued in connexion with the review of Income-tax Rules, 1962 submitted to the Secretary to the Government of India, Central Board of Direct Taxes, New Delhi."

The Federation urged that the difficulties experienced by the Coal Mining Industry should be considered in their right perspective when the Bill to amend the Income-tax Act to provide for amortization of expenses was finalized.

**Q. REQUIREMENT OF MINING EQUIPMENTS FOR THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY.**

The Committee on Productivity and Modernization of Mines set up by the Coal Advisory Council at its meeting held on 7.4.69, while considering the question of availability of indigenous mining equipment to be manufactured by the Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation, Durgapore, decided to collect details and the number of various types of mining equipment that will be required by the Coal Industry from 1970-71 onwards to facilitate drawing up a production programme. The Federation accordingly issued a circular requesting its members to furnish the details and the number of various types of mining equipments to be required by them from 1970-71 onwards for onward transmission to the Coal Controller.

On the basis of the statements received from the members of the Federation as well as of other Associations the J.W.C. forwarded the following list of mining equipment that would be normally required by the collieries to Shri H. B. Ghose, Dy. Director General of Mines Safety and Convenor of Sub-Committee for Preparing Standing Specifications of Mining Equipments, Dhanbad, in its letter No. 9-PM/1145 dated 2 December 1969.



*List of Mining Equipment required for collieries.*

1. Motors	...	Flameproof—Gr. 1
2. Electric Control Gear	...	—Gr. 1
Drum Controller		
Resistance Box		
3. Starting Gear		
Star Delta Starter	...	"
Auto Transformer Starter		"
Starter Control Switch	...	"
4. Control Circuit Equipment	...	"
Push button starter	...	"
Limit Switches	...	"
Under Volt Switches	...	"
Rim Cord switches	...	"
Master Controller	...	"
Multipoint Pistolgrip Switches		"
Float switches	...	"
Liquid Controllers	...	"
Thrust brakes	...	"
Electric Magnetic Brakes		"

*Signalling and communication equipment*

5. Intrinsically Safe and/or Flameproof Mining Telephone and Batteries	..	
6. Flir plug type cable couplers	...	FLP
7. Circuit Breakers	...	"
Gate and Panels	...	"
Remote Control Panels	...	"
8. Power Transformers and Transwitch units (Oil, Air and Quarts filled construction)		"
9. Lighting Transformers.		

1. Compressed H.P. air Coal blasting equipment (Airbreak system) with H.P. Pipes, fittings, valves, etc.
2. Armoured face conveyor.
3. Cutter loaders and other mining combines.
4. Under ground Locomotives.
5. Under ground drilling equipment.
6. Under ground coal cutting equipment.
7. Under ground Chain Conveyors.
8. Under ground Belt Conveyors.
9. Face pumps
  - submersible
  - mono
  - Megator
  - snorer and self priming pumps
  - Drill Pumps.
10. Continuous Miners.
11. Shuttle Cars.
12. Roof Support equipment
  - Hydraulic props
  - Props
  - Hydraulic Chocks
  - Friction Props.
13. Underground Coal haulers.
14. Face loaders of different types.
15. Methanometers and other portable gas testing apparatus.
16. Exploders.
17. Friction and Drum winders with Run equipment.
18. Skips with skip charging and measuring equipment with special braking device of skips.
19. Safety appliances for skips and cages.
20. Suspension equipment for skips and cages.
21. Winding ropes for shafts more than 300 M.
22. L.C. Winding ropes for all depths.
23. Flat ropes for balancing.
24. Guide ropes for shafts with depths of more than 300 m.

# R. SHORTAGE OF IRON AND STEEL MATERIALS FOR THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY OF PRIVATE SECTOR.

The private sector collieries have been suffering from the beginning of the year 1969 from an acute shortage of iron and steel materials. Efforts were made by the Coal Controller to obtain an adequate allocation for the Coal Industry but the basic difficulty was that the consumers placed in "Status I" by the Joint Plant Committee were being supplied first with iron and steel materials. As the Coal Industry has been placed in "Status II" supplies of such materials are being made to the Industry after meeting the full requirement of the consumers placed under "Status I". The Industry has repeatedly asked that it should be placed in Status I for the purpose of getting iron and steel materials. Sri G. D. Ghatak, Dy. Coal Controller (P), held two meetings with the representatives of the Industry, Joint Plant Committee, Hindustan Steel Ltd., Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., and Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., and also their distributors, the first on 9 April 1969 and the second on 7 May 1969, in the office of the Coal Controller to discuss the question relating to availability of various types, sizes of plates, sheets, rails and other items of iron and steel materials for collieries.

Sri Ghatak explained to the manufacturers as well as the distributors of iron and steel materials that a serious situation had developed in the Coal Industry as a result of non-availability of iron and steel materials like 10 gauge sheets (3.15 m.m.), 5 & 6 m.m. plates, 24 and 30 lbs. rails etc. used in collieries. It was pointed out by him that unless the materials were made available to the collieries on a priority basis, coal production would be greatly hampered and if coking coal production was affected, supplies to Iron and Steel Industry would dwindle. It was also explained to them that the Coal Controller, being the sponsoring authority for scarce materials like G.P. & G.C. sheets only, was not required to keep track of the demand and availability of other iron and steel materials like black sheets, plates and light section

rails. It was therefore stressed that there was a need for channelling the distribution of so-called non-scarce materials through the Coal Controller after assessment of demand on collierywise basis.

The Dy. Iron & Steel Controller, Sri S. C. Mukherjee who was present at the meeting held on 9 April 1969, stated that owing to no rolling of 24 and 30 lbs. rails during the last seven months, there was a shortage of such materials. He suggested that the demand of the distribution to the Coal Industry should be co-ordinated by the office of the Coal Controller.

Discussions also centred round the rolling programme of B.P. sheets and plates of various specifications required by collieries for repair and construction of coal tubs—a vital link for production. It was decided that IISCO should intensify their production programme of 10 G. C. Sheets and both TISCO and Rourkela for sheets and plates. Each such plant should communicate to the Coal Controller's office, the Iron & Steel Controller and the Joint Plant Committee details of their production programme to clear the outstanding orders.

At the second meeting held on 7 May 1969, it was stated that owing to a shortfall in production of iron and steel, coking coal production would be hampered affecting coal supplies to the steel plants. As it would take a long time to clear the outstanding orders and to cater to the fresh demand at the current rate of production of light rails, it was suggested that the current orders for rails might be equitably spread over all the steel plants having arrangements for rolling light rails. It was further stated that the coking coal sector was

placed under the key industries and that these collieries deserved special preference and priority, particularly when iron and steel materials were in short supply. Sri M. C. Parekh, who attended the above meeting as a representative of the Federation, however pointed out that the demand of collieries producing non-coking coal should not also be ignored, otherwise supply of coal to the power houses, railways, ordnance factories and other vital industries would suffer. The supply of light rails was considered very precarious and it was considered that even the importation of light rails to meet the demand of coking coal collieries might be unavoidable. Sri Parekh suggested that the Hindustan Steel Ltd. and IISCO should be persuaded to start the rolling of light rails and that the Ministry should be kept posted with the entire situation so that the indigenous production of light rails could be intensified to avert shortage and importation of light rails.

It was suggested by the Joint Working Committee that the Ministry of Mines and Metals should be represented on the Joint Plant Committee whose duty would be to distribute iron and steel materials in a rational manner, particularly in view of the fact that the supply of steel materials was of crucial importance to the Coal Industry. It was further suggested that the Coal Industry's allocation of iron and steel materials (whose demands could be planned for direct supply from steel plants) should be made through the Coal Controller to the controlled stockists earmarked for the Coal Industry. The steel plants could be requested to advise the Coal Controller of despatches of iron and steel materials to the controlled stockists so that these might be allocated by a Screening Committee to be set up by the Coal Controller on the lines of the existing Import Licence Screening Committee.



It was also pointed out that the Coal Industry required steel sheets for tub repairing and for this purpose it was possible to use rejected or defective sheets. It was requested that steel plants would be asked to make available rejected or defective sheets to the Coal Industry.

The problem could best be resolved by increased production of the kinds of materials required by the Coal Industry, particularly, B.P. sheets, M.S. plates and light rails. The Coal Industry would appreciate advice as to whether increased production of these materials would be possible in the near future.

#### S. IMPORT LICENCE SCREENING COMMITTEE

Only two meetings, the 15th and the 16th, of the above Committee were held during the year. Sri R. C. Patel, a nominee of the Federation, represented the Joint Working Committee on the Committee as a technical representative.

The 15th meeting was held on 24.1.69, 25.1.69, and on 17.2.69 in the office of the Coal Controller, Calcutta and again on 20.2.69 in the office of the D.G.M.S., Dhanbad.

At this meeting Sri G. D. Ghatak, Dy. Coal Controller (P), who is also the Convener of the Committee, informed the members that for the period April to September, 1968 allocation of regular foreign exchange received from the Ministry was Rs. 15 lakhs from the General Resources and Rs. 5 lakhs from Rupee payment sources. He stated that although the allocation from General Resources had been com-



pletely utilized and released ; utilization against the allocation from Rupee payment sources had been very poor (Rs. 14.6 thousands only could be utilized against the allocation of Rs. 5 lakhs).

Sri D. Sanyal, Asstt. Coal Controller and Secretary of the Screening Committee informed the members that for the period October, 1968 to March, 1969 fresh allocation of regular foreign exchange had been received from the Ministry, the amount being Rs. 10 lakhs from General Resources and Rs. 5 lakhs from Rupee Payment areas. Import Licence applications to the extent of 43.54 lakhs inclusive of the old applications of the value of 11.4 lakhs were examined by the Committee. Import Licence applications included mainly the following items:—

- (1) Caplamp bulbs,
- (2) Guide rope, Cage suspension gear, bridle gear,
- (3) Methanometer, Recorder etc.,
- (4) Haulage, Locomotive, Winder, Loader, Coal Cutters etc.,
- (5) Exploder,
- (6) Drill, Air Compressor etc.,
- (7) Turbine parts, Transformers etc.,
- (8) Coal Washing plants, Coke Ovens,
- (9) Hoist, Loading Shovels, Bulldozers etc.

#### 1. CAPLAMP BULBS :

The availability of caplamp bulbs from indigenous source by the beginning of the current year, as expected earlier could not be depended upon. It was decided that one

bulb for each lamp would be recommended except in cases where the actual number of bulbs applied for were less than the total number of lamps.

## 2. WINDING AND GUIDE ROPES:

Applications for Winding and Guide Ropes could not be processed because the specification etc. and the availability of the Winding Ropes from U.S.S.R. and Poland could not then be ascertained and also because out of 3 firms given approval by the D.G.M.S. to supply these ropes for a limited depth for experimental purpose one was then under lock out.

## 3. METHANOMETER RECORDERS ETC.:

It was decided that all applications for Methanometers and other Gas indicators would be sponsored for the lowest technically acceptable offer.

## 4. FRICTION PROPS AND SETTING DEVICES:

2500 pcs. were allowed to be imported. In future no application for Friction Props would be entertained.

## 5. DIESEL MINE TRACTORS WITH TRAILORS:

As one Tractor with Trailors was locally available from N.C.D.C. and some Trailors were being manufactured in the workshop of a colliery company only two Tractors were allowed to be imported and their Trailors should be procured from indigenous sources.

## 6. ROCKER SHOVELS:

Only 14 Nos. Rocker Shovel were allowed to be imported.

7- 3 Nos. 6 P. 100 Power Units suitable for mounting to existing armoured face conveyors each comprising Gear Box, Fluids coupling and a 65 FLP electric motor were allowed to be imported.

## 8. VELOMETER, ANEMOMETERS, METHANOMETERS AND TOXIC TESTERS:

These safety items were allowed for importation.

## 9. 1000 METERS FULLY LOCKED COIL WIRE ROPES:

These were allowed to be imported, but in future no application for aerial ropes would be considered for importation.

## 10. INTRINSICALLY SAFE TELEPHONES:

Importation of these was approved by the Committee.

At the 16th meeting of the Import Licence Screening Committee held on 22.9.69 and 23.9.69 at the office of the Coal Controller, Calcutta Sri A. Banerjee, Jt. Dy. Coal Controller (P) and Jt. Convener, who presided over the meeting, informed the members that the allocation from General Resources for the year 1968-69 had been fully utilized and released but utilization against the allocation from the Rupee Payment Sources had been unexpectedly very poor. The

details of allocation vis-a-vis utilization during the year 1968-69 as explained by Sri Banerjee are given below:—

(i) Allocation: (1968/69)

(a) General resources	— Rs. 25.00 lakhs.
(b) Rupee Payment area	— Rs. 10.00 „

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Total Rs. 35.00 Lakhs.

(ii) Utilization:—(1968-69)

(a) General resources	— Rs. 25.16 Lakhs.
(b) Rupee Payment area	— Rs. 1.37 „

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Total Rs. 26.53 Lakhs

Sri Banerjee then informed the members that for the period April 1969 to September 1969 a fresh allocation of foreign exchange had been received for Rs. 12 lakhs from General Resources. Owing to poor utilization no allocation had been made from the Rupee Payment Sources for the current period. He then gave the following account of the Import Licence applications to be examined in the above meeting:

A. (i) Old applications for reconsideration— Rs. 40.160

(ii) Applications received since April '69

(a) Caplamp bulbs	Rs. 1,37,832
(b) Wire ropes	Rs. 4,71,686
(c) Other items	Rs. 13,69,894

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Total — Rs. 20,19,572

## B. Applications eliminated on 1st processing—

(a) Due to non-receipt of Essentiality

Certificate— Rs. 6000

(b) Application for import from  
Rupee Payment Sources

— Rs. 5850

Total Rs. 12,750

Sri Banerjee referred to the non-inclusion of caplamp bulbs in the Import Trade Control Policy Book for the year 1969-70 and as the caplamp bulbs were neither available indigenously nor were likely to be available in the near future from any indigenous source, it was decided that import of this item would be allowed at the rate of 1.1/2 bulbs applied for.

## WINDING AND GUIDE ROPES

- (i) For ropes, other than locked coils, applications would be examined and sponsored only in such cases where the shaft depth exceeded 350 metres.
- (ii) Length of ropes applied for in relation to the shaft depths would be checked once again before the applications were forwarded to the J.C.C.I. & E.
- (iii) Applications for locked coil ropes of short lengths (upto 1000' ft.) would be referred to the D.G.M.S. to ascertain whether the D.G.M.S. required installation of such ropes for reasons of safety.

## GAS DETECTORS AND METHANOMETERS ETC.

It was decided that all applications for Methanometers and spares would be sponsored. Only 50% of the total number of Carbon Monoxide tubes would be recommended to the J.C.C.I. & E. and for the rest the applicants were advised to contact the M.S.A. Calcutta.



## EXPLODERS

Regarding exploders, the following decisions were taken:—

- (i) All the spare parts would be allowed.
- (ii) Not more than six Exploders would be allowed on account of any individual colliery.
- (iii) ME-12 type Exploders should be allowed in place of ME-6 type exploders which were going to be obsolete soon.

*Spare parts for Haulages, Winders, cage suspension Gears, Bridle chains, safety detaching hooks, rope cattles, gate end box and air circuit breakers:*

Certain specified items were allowed to be imported.

*Spare parts for coal cutters, loaders, loading shovels & Milling machines:*

It was decided that only one 11 line cutter chain (and not 9) per machine would be sponsored as a token import with stipulation to the users that they should obtain their future requirements from indigenous sources.

Considering that recommendations against the existing applications would not fully cover the entire allocation of Rs. 12.0 lakhs, a decision was taken that fresh applications would be invited from the private-sector coal mining industry on an immediate basis, and the applications should be scrutinized by the Coal Controller's office without waiting for the screening Committee meeting.

## III DISTRIBUTION

## A. TRANSPORT OF COAL.

Inadequate wagon supply still continues to be one of the limiting factors of coal production. The poor supply of wagons during the calendar year i.e. from January to December 1969 caused a severe strain on the producers and consumers of coal at a time when the demand was just picking up. The Railway's movement of coal has never been able to catch up with the actual requirements of the producers and consumers. Although the performance of the Eastern Railway during the year 1969 was generally satisfactory excepting the months of April, May, June, July and December, that of the South Eastern Railway was most disappointing throughout the year. This will be evident from the fact that against the minimum target of 1900 wagons fixed several years ago for S. E. Railway which was even then admittedly short of requirements, there was a shortfall of 270 wagons daily. Even during the slack season more coal could not be moved owing to scarcity of wagons. During the year 1969 the daily average loading of wagons was only 1630 against the assured minimum of 1900. During the year 1969 the daily average wagon supply was 8300 for the whole of India against the minimum of 8640 wagons per day assured by the Railway authorities leaving a shortfall of 340 wagons. This will be evident from the following tables:—

		Eastern Railway :	South Eastern Railway :	Total
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Target :		4700 wgs.	1900 wgs.	6600 wgs.
January '69	loading	4783	1657	6440
	shortfall	+ 83	243	160
February '69	loading	5146	1675	6821
	shortfall	+ 446	225	+ 221

		Eastern Railway :	South Eastern Railway :	Total
March '69	loading	4994	1643	6636
	shortfall	+ 234	258	+ 26
April '69	loading	4741	1686	6427
	shortfall	+ 41	214	175
May '69	loading	4589	1695	6284
	shortfall	111	205	316
June '69	loading	4436	1646	6082
	shortfall	264	254	518
July '69	loading	4644	1622	6266
	shortfall	56	278	334
August '69	loading	4601	1614	6215
	shortfall	99	236	335
September '69	loading	4345	1734	6079
	shortfall	+ 145	166	21
October '69	loading	4778	1524	6302
	shortfall	+ 78	376	298
November '69	loading	4813	1509	6322
	shortfall	+ 113	391	278
December '69	loading	4618	1555	6173
	shortfall	82	345	427
Average :	loading	4748	1630	6378
	shortfall	+ 48	270	222

Owing to the shortage of wagons there has been a very large accumulation of stocks at the pit-heads which are estimated at more than 6.0 million tonnes at the end of the calendar year 1969.

**B. ASSESSMENTS OF DAILY REQUIREMENTS OF WAGONS  
IN VARIOUS FIELDS DURING THE FOURTH PLAN PERIOD.**

A meeting between the Coal Controller and the representative of the Industry was held on 7 October 1969 in the Coal Controller's Office to examine the following:

- (i) The daily wagon target as allowed by the Railway currently and the extent to which this falls short of the requirement, as envisaged by the producers and the consumers, if any.
- (ii) The daily wagon target that will be required for each field during the 4th Plan period based on consumption pattern, demand and coal target.
- (iii) Creation of some sort of cushion for transport of coal by Rail in emergencies, and the extent to which this should be made for various fields over the daily wagon target that will be required during the 4th Plan period.

The above subjects were discussed at a meeting of the Federation Sub-Committee on matters pertaining to transport and State of West Bengal (Royalty, Law and Order, Mining leases, Taxes, etc.) and the following note prepared by it was forwarded to the Coal Controller for his consideration at the meeting:

The daily target and the loading as per the figures

available to the Federation for various fields for May, 1969, is as under:

Fields	Target	Loading
Bengal-Bihar	6600	6284
Korea-Rewa	850	887
Talchar	100	59
Pench-Chanda	590	529
Singareni	500	342
Assam	50	45
	<hr/> 8690 <hr/>	<hr/> 8146 <hr/>

It would be evident from the above that the actual loading falls short by 544 wagons per day in the various fields against the targets fixed by the Railways.

So far the current loading targets are concerned it should be noted here that due to acute recession in the country during the preceding two years (1967 & 1968) the actual demand for coal did not materialise according to anticipation. Lately on account of revival of economy there are definite signs of increased demand for coal and if the present tempo in the economic activity is maintained, it can safely be envisaged that demand for coal in all sectors would rise continuously in the next five years. It can be assumed therefore that the targets fixed for the third plan would materialise in the Fourth Plan positively. As such, the planning for transport to meet the coal demand is to be made on priority basis without the least delay. It has been suggested by the highest level that Railways capacity should be

a little ahead of the actual demand and in view of the fact that there are definite trends in the demand for coal urgent steps are necessary to create the required capacity.

So far as the daily wagon loading target that would be required, it would be prudent on our part to make arrangement for transport on the basis of the third plan which has been spilled over to Fourth Plan so far as non-coking coal is concerned. In coking coal sector there would be some increase over the third plan target but this should be decided in close consultation with the Ministry of Steel and coking coal producers.

The Third Plan envisages production of about 72 million tonnes of coal in Bengal-Bihar coalfields but allowing for domestic consumption, boiler consumption and road movement, transport requirement by rail would be minimum 62 to 64 million tonnes per annum. On the above estimate the daily requirement of wagons in West Bengal and Bihar coalfields would be 8000 wagons per day.

The target of production for Pench-Chanda, Kore-Rewa was 13.50 million tonnes and as there is very little road movement in this area it would be necessary to plan rail capacity to the extent of 13 million tonnes which would require about 1625 wagons per day. In other coalfields in Singrauli, Singareni, etc. which are in the Public Sector, no assessment is being made by the Federation about their requirements.

As regards creation of some cushion, wherever there is natural calamity or earth-quake or junctional or seasonal shortfalls in allotments, the Railways invariably explain the



shortfalls on account of the abovementioned factors. On account of this there is wide variation in day to day allotments and particularly in the busy season from October to June the Railways plead their helplessness to meet the wagon requirements of the consumers. It is evident that at present for 9 months in a year, there is no cushion existing whatsoever which would take care of additional demands on the transport during the busy season. Although there is not much spare capacity during the lean months of July, August and September, it is a fact that transport position is easy during these three months and the Railways can in co-operation with the producers and consumers have better utilization and turn round of wagons during these three months. It would be in the interest of the Railways and the lower priority consumers which are a vital sector of the economy that essential consumers like the Railways, Steel Plants, Power Houses, Cement Factories etc. build up additional 5 to 10 days stocks within these three months so that the other users can take advantage of wagons offering during the busy season. For these three months the Railways must give some incentive by way of longer credit and reduction in freight if the consumers build up additional stocks. This suggestion has been given by the Industry during the last 2/3 years and in view of the fast tempo of development and pressure on the Railways, it is not yet too late for the Railways to evolve a scheme which would give an incentive to the consumers for the purpose of movement of additional coal.

During the busy season the lowest priority consumers such as brick burning industry and soft coke deserve some consideration from the Railways as these priorities suffer most on account of inadequate allotment. They are vital section on account of inadequate allotment. They are vital sections of the community and create job opportunities for millions of people in construction of houses, roads, etc. It will be

most unfair on the part of the Railways to ignore these vital sectors when their demands for coal are not met. As this section of the Industry has been managed by small and medium class people it would be fair to persuade such priorities to block their valuable capital in coal stocks during the lean season and it is of paramount importance that their demands which are essential should be met as and when they require coal. As such a cushion or a minimum quota of wagons should be reserved for brick burning and soft coke during the period October to June and their actual requirement should be planned in consultation with the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and Haryana.

On a rough estimate requirements of soft coke should be planned on a minimum requirement of 450 wagons a day with 7 to 10% increase every year. Minimum requirements of brick burning coal in the above Mughalsarai direction from Bengal-Bihar coalfields during the busy season would be 800 to 1000 wagons per day.

### C. WAGON SUPPLY POSITION

There was a marked deterioration in the wagon supply position, particularly on the South Eastern Railway, during the months beginning from April to September. It will be observed from the following table that in the case of the South Eastern Railway, there was a progressively increasing shortfall in the wagon supply against target until August 1969 when the shortfall was 286. In spite of a slight improvement in the supply in September 1969, there was still a shortfall of 166 wagons on the South Eastern Railway.

TABLE

Period	Loading			Shortfall over target.		
	E. Rly.	S. E. Rly.	Total	E. Rly.	S. E. Rly.	Total
(Target)	4700	1900	6600			
1969						
April	4741	1685	6427	+ 41	- 214	- 173
May	4589	1605	6194	- 111	- 235	- 346
June	4436	1646	6082	- 264	- 254	- 518
July	4644	1622	6266	- 56	- 273	- 334
August	4601	1614	6215	- 99	- 285	- 385
September	4345	1734	6079	+ 145	- 166	- 21

In the case of the Eastern Railway, which usually meets the targetted figure of 4,700 wagons, fixed as long ago as 1960, the supply position from May 1969 onwards was wholly inadequate as the above figures show. Owing to the short supply of wagons, the stocks of coal at pitheads have considerably increased. The Joint Working Committee made a representation to Shri K. S. Banerjee, Director, Traffic (Transportation), Railway Board, New Delhi, drawing his attention to the acute shortage of wagon supply position and requesting him to take immediate steps to meet the increasing coal requirements of the country. It was also pointed out that more coal could not be moved during the months of July, August and September, i.e. even during the slack season. But to the Industry's disappointment, instead of taking any effective steps to improve wagon supply, the Director, Traffic (Transportation), Railway Board, in his letter No. 69-TTH/60/BB/1 dated 29 October 1969 merely asked for figures of pithead stocks of collieries whose pithead stocks had allegedly increased as mentioned in the letter of the J.W.C.

#### D. MOVEMENT OF COAL FROM OUTLYING FIELDS TO DELHI AREAS.

The Committee of the Federation is greatly perturbed over the unilateral decision of the Railway Board to permit movement of coal on a trial basis in December from outlying coalfields to North India via Delhi area and Ferozepur in total disregard of the previous assurance of not disturbing the existing linkage of consumers of different coal producing areas and also of the assurance given by the Planning Commission that the present installed capacity and the resources should be fully utilized and that every assistance would be given to the units to raise production according to their installed capacity.

In a memorandum dated 18 December 1969 submitted to Dr. Triguna Sen, Minister of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals, by the Federation's Chairman, Sri V. K. Poddar, with a copy to the Chairman, Railway Board, Ministry of Railways and to Sri Jyoti Basu, Dy. Chief Minister, West Bengal and Sri Sushil Dhara, Minister of Commerce & Industries, Government of West Bengal, Calcutta, it was pointed out that if such a movement was allowed to continue the collieries in West Bengal, which were suffering from labour trouble and insufficient demand would further lose their existing markets resulting in complete dislocation on their economy. He therefore emphasized the need for the Ministry's intervention and immediate action to stop any further movement from the outlying fields to North India.

The memorandum also pointed out that when the 3rd Five-Year Plan was drawn up by the Government, various



targets were laid down for different coalfields, with linkage of consumers to the coal-producing areas. On this basis, the collieries in different zones planned their production so as to suit the demand for the areas linked to their production. The Railways also invested enormous sums of money by way of electrification, dieselization, doubling of tracks and modernization of yards in the entire Calcutta-Mugalsarai sections, extending over 650 kms. West Bengal coalfields produce more than 20 million tons of coals, and the bulk of this coal could not be consumed in West Bengal and has to move in up-country directions above Mugalsarai. While coal prices had been decontrolled, it had been stated that there had been no general distribution decontrol so far as transport of coal was concerned. The Railway had formed a scheme of rationalized transport movement, so as to move coal from different coalfields to certain areas, taking into consideration the installed capacity, the proposed production and the well-established linkage between the producers and consumers. It was highly improper, particularly for West Bengal coalfields, that without consulting the industry a very major deviation was proposed to be made by allowing coal from outlying fields to move in Delhi area. Coal from West Bengal coalfields moved to the Delhi area and certain lower grades of coal are being supplied to Delhi Power Station. With the proposed changes, the economy of the collieries would be disturbed and the existing linkage would also be jeopardized. The Planning Commission had accepted the view that the present installed capacity and the resources should be fully utilized and every assistance given to the units to raise production according to their installed capacity. While the industry would have no complaint with regard to the linking of new consumers to the nearest supply sources, it should not be the Government's policy to disrupt suddenly the existing channels of the movement. This was in variance with the Government policy and the investments made by the Railways and the coal industry will prove infructuous.

The Memorandum went on to state that the rationalization pattern of transport could not be changed to suit certain coalfields. It was a well known fact that large number of consumers situated in West and South India were prepared to pay higher freights for coal purchases from West Bengal coalfields, and the quality of coal available in South and Western India was much inferior to that of West Bengal coalfields. In spite of this, there was no general relaxation for movement of West Bengal coal to these areas, and the Industry had accepted this, and to that extent the West Bengal coalfields market was limited. So, when there is control, there was no reason why the Railway should start new experiments at a critical juncture and disturb the collieries in West Bengal.

The J.W.C. also, in its letter No. 73/71/1203 dated 18 December, 1969, addressed to Sri G. D. Khandelwal, the then Chairman, Railway Board and to Sri B. M. Kaul, Director, Trans. (Traffic), Railway Board, made a similar representation.

**E. LOCO COAL TENDER (TENDER NO. FUEL 6 OF 1969)  
ISSUED BY THE RAILWAY BOARD.**

The Government of India, Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) published a notification in several news papers inviting tenders from the producers of coal/coke for the supply of Selected 'A' & 'B', Grade I and Grade II non-coking coal produced in Bengal, Bihar, and outlying coalfields, coking coal of Grade HH and higher grades (which are not required by steel plants), ungraded coals of Singareni, soft coke, rubble coke, slack coal, nut coke, pearl coke, B. P. Hard Coke and Beehive Hard Coke for the period 1.10.1969



to 30.9.1970. It was stated in the said notification that offers of only those tenderers would be considered—

- (a) who are producing coal from their own mines and whose average production during the last six months viz. December, 1968 to May 1969, is not less than 3000 tonnes per month for all grades tendered;
- (b) who are producing coke from their own cokeries.

It was further stated in the notification that the last date of submission of tenders was 11 August 1969 and that tender documents have to be submitted this time to the Joint Director Mechanical Engineering (Fuel) Railway Board, New Delhi instead of the Chief Mining Adviser, Railway Board, Dhanbad as was hitherto being done. A new clause was incorporated in the tender document to the effect that in the case of collieries who failed to obtain certificates from the Regional Labour Commissioner (C) regarding the implementation of the Wage Board recommendations within two and a half month's time the security money for the tender might be forfeited and the order for the supply of coal might also be cancelled.

The need for concerted action in the matter was emphasized at various meetings of the Joint Working Committee and the Federation also impressed upon the members the need for payment of variable dearness allowance at the increased rate of Rs. 1.11 P. per day with effect from the month of August and of Rs. 1.29 P. per diem from the month of October, 1969 so as to make it possible for the Industry to strongly urge the ministries of Labour, Mines & Metals and also the Railways to allow adequate price increase for such payment. It was considered at a meeting of the Joint Working Committee that failure to give an undertaking to produce certificate from the RLC(C) as to the implementation

of the Wage Board recommendations would be regarded by the Government as a refusal to increase variable dearness allowance and this would have adverse consequences. It was therefore suggested that no colliery should submit certificate from the RLC(C) that it had fully implemented the Wage Board recommendations. Subsequently at a meeting of the major coal producers held in the rooms of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry on 1 August 1969 it was considered that the industry had been able to obtain price increase to meet the impositions on the Industry only because the Industry had taken a unified stand. It was recalled that the JWC had earlier taken a decision to recommend a price increase of Rs. 3/- per tonne from July 1969 which was based on the need to neutralize the cost of dearness allowance, increased cesses, royalties and other impositions and to implement the directives of the Director General of Mines Safety regarding footwear, uniforms and other matters. After a full discussion it was finally agreed that efforts should be made to pay variable dearness allowance subject to price increase being granted. It was unanimously agreed at the meeting that the procedure should be the same as had been adopted in the previous year and that the price should be left to the JWC Committee to determine. It was also agreed that tenders should also be submitted through the JWC representatives notwithstanding the provisions of the tender.

165 colliery units offering 37094 m/tonnes of Selected A, 155,470 m/tonnes of Selected B, 746,517 m/tonnes of Grade I, and 1,96,981 m/tonnes of Grade II submitted tenders through JWC. All these collieries submitting tenders through JWC quoted the following prices:

Selected 'A'	— Rs. 42.50 (Rs. 4.11 above the previous price)
Selected 'B'	— Rs. 39.40 (Rs. 2.48 above the previous price)
Grade I	— Rs. 36.00 (Rs. 2.44 above the previous price)
Grade II	— Rs. 30.85 (Rs. 2/- above the previous price)

At a meeting held on 19 August 1969 in Rail Bhavan, New Delhi between the representatives of the industry and the Railway Coal Tender Committee to negotiate the loco coal prices prolonged discussions were held on the break-up figures on each item of additional cost of production the impact of which on price was assessed at Rs. 3.35 per tonne as set out in the detailed memorandum submitted by the JWC to the Government. In pursuance of an earlier arrangement a further meeting was held at New Delhi on 26 August 1969 to hold further discussions on the matter. On 27 August 1969 at the above meeting the Railway Board disputed the industry's claim for higher prices for which a supplementary memorandum explaining the incidence of increase in the various items of cost of production was submitted by the Industry at New Delhi. After a series of discussions that took place on various dates between the representatives of the JWC and the Loco Coal Tender Committee at New Delhi in the months of August and September 1969 it was indicated by the Railways that they would be prepared to consider a price increase upto 70 Paise per tonne for all grades of coal including Grade II coals. It was however pointed out by the representatives of the Industry that minimum increase of Rs. 1.75 per tonne with effect from 1 October 1969 was necessary to enable the collieries to obtain certificate of implementation of Wage Board recommendations as required in the Loco Coal Tender. Meanwhile the Railway Board issued a communication to individual collieries offering a maximum price increase of 70 paise per tonne for all grades of coal over the current loco coal prices.

Further meetings were held in the third week of September 1969 with the representatives of the JWC, Railway Coal Tender Committee and Dr. Ram Subhag Singh and also the representatives of the Ministry of Mines & Metals in connexion with the prices to be paid for supplies of coal to the Railways with effect from 1 October 1969 with the result that

the representatives of the JWC had no option but to accept with utmost reluctance a price increase of 70 Paise per tonne for all grades of coal under compelling circumstances. It was however made known to the Government that the price increase was not adequate to meet the statutory and other impositions and many collieries would find it impossible to implement in full the recommendations of the Wage Board with this meagre price increase and that as a result there might be serious labour unrest owing to uneven implementation of the Wage Board recommendations.

#### F. ADJUSTMENT OF OVERLOADED BOX WAGONS LOADED WITH COAL AND COKE

The Divisional Operating Superintendent and the Coal Area Superintendent, Dhanbad, in their letter No. XG.3051/53 dated 22 August 1969 addressed to United Karanpura Collieries Ltd., Churi & Dakrabukbuka Colliery and also to Manki/Ray Colliery advised that "with effect from 8.9.69 if any box wagon loaded by the aforesaid two collieries is found overloaded beyond two tonnes of the marked carrying capacity, the entire rake including the overloaded box wagon/wagons, will be returned to the colliery siding for adjustment of the overloaded quantity of coal or coke and for which demurrage for the entire rake will be levied." Although the collieries were exercising utmost caution in the loading of coal in the permitted quantity overloading cannot be avoided on occasion, a fact clearly admitted even by the Railways as would be evident from the relevant Coal Tariff Penalty Rules. In a representation, made by the Federation in its letter No. 112/1286 & 1287 dated 2 September 1969 to the Divisional Operating Superintendent (T) and the Coal Area Superintendent, Eastern Railway, Dhanbad, it was pointed out that such drastic penal action to return the entire rake to the colliery siding for adjustment of the overloaded quantity of coal and to charge demurrage for the entire rake which



was nowhere provided in any rule of the Coal Tariff was not at all necessary, since the Coal Tariff Penalty Rules fully provided for adjustment of overloaded coal in the Railway yards. It was further pointed out that such facilities for adjustment of overloaded coal at the weighbridge existed both for four-wheelers and for box wagons on the South Eastern Railway whereas similar facilities existed only for four-wheelers on the Eastern Railway and not for box wagons. The Committee of the Federation therefore considered the letter stated, that the Eastern Railway should also provide similar facilities for adjustment of box wagons in the Railway yard instead of imposing a heavy penalty by requiring the return of the full rake and charging demurrage for it.

This matter was also taken up by the Federation at the quarterly meeting held on 11 September 1969 between the representatives of the Industry and the Director, Traffic (Transportation), Railway Board, who informed the Federation's representative that as the collieries concerned were situated very close to a weighbridge and as their performance had been very unsatisfactory in the past the Railways issued instructions to return the entire rake to the colliery siding for adjustment of overloaded wagons. It was further stated by the Railways' representatives that after issue of these instructions the collieries' performance was found to be much better and if they kept overloading within the permissible limit there would be no necessity for taking any action. The Railways' representative informed the Industry that a meeting would be held at an early date either at Dhanbad or Asansol and the representatives of the collieries concerned would be requested to attend the meeting and explain matters. Further, the Federation's representative was assured by the Railways that if overloading was reduced they would not insist upon returning the rake to the colliery siding and the collieries should therefore be requested to improve their performance in loading.

## G. MOUNTING RAILWAY FREIGHT ON COAL

In the name of "rationalization" of freight rates that came into effect from 1 November 1968 the Railways effected a very substantial increase in the Railway transport charges which have gone up anywhere from Rs. 2/- to Rs. 9.50 per tonne. It will be observed from the following table that the cost of coal delivered to consumers at long distances is more than double the cost of coal at the pithead. In some cases increase in the rate of transport charges for carrying coal works out to as much as 25%. For instance till 14 June 1967 coal freight inclusive of surcharge for a distance of 1850 kilometres was Rs. 41.82 per tonne. With effect from 1 November 1968 it is Rs. 52.36 per tonne for the same distance.

Distance Kilometre	Coal freight paid with surcharge before 31.10.68.	Coal freight payable on or after 1.11.68.	Increase.
500	19.02	21.00	1.98
1000	31.50	34.16	2.66
1500	41.09	44.56	3.47
2000	49.27	54.96	5.69
2500	53.91	60.96	7.05
3000	57.45	66.96	9.51

It may be of interest to know that while railway freight charges in 1959 in respect of a distance of 1000 miles have increased to 238 per cent coal prices during the same period have increased by only 133 per cent. One tonne of coal from Raniganj to Madras, if despatched by rail, will be subjected to freight payment of more than Rs. 51/- and if it is sent by rail-cum-sea route, the freight will be more than



Rs. 69/- For coal despatches from Jharia the freight charge per tonne will come to more than Rs. 50/- by rail and more than Rs. 71/- by rail-cum-sea route. For Bombay the freight for despatches per tonne of coal from Raniganj will be Rs. 52.36 P. by rail and Rs. 81.96 P. by rail-sum-sea route; from Jharia to Bombay these charges will be Rs. 52.36 P. and Rs. 84.63 P. respectively. But the price per tonne of the best grade coals ranges from Rs. 35/- to Rs. 38/-. As a result, the consumers of coal are being subjected to great hardship and the cost of production of the coal-based commodities has also correspondingly shot up.

Coal producers have often been most unreasonably blamed for mounting increase in the price of coal without perhaps knowing that the major share in the price goes to the Railways in the form of Railway freight. The major element in the cost of production of coal is admittedly the wage cost which is continually going up and the price of coal is also correspondingly on the increase owing to factors over which the Industry has absolutely no control. The Committee of the Federation therefore feels that a national fuel policy should be formulated as early as possible to stabilize production cost of a basic commodity like coal failing which a time may come when the major consumers might consider the cost of coal as prohibitive and switch over to other fuel.

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry in its letter No. F.2899/TC/7 dated 13 March 1969 made a representation to the Chairman, Railway Board pointing out the high increase in the railway freight rates on coal and urging speedy examination of this matter with a view to ensuring that the industrial consumers were not

made to pay freight rates which had proved patently un-economic. The Railway Board, in reply to the above letter of the FICCI, stated in its letter, No. TCR/1172/69/Coal dated 14 April 1969, that the increase in the rates of coal with effect from 1 November 1968 was a result of the examination of the adequacy of freight charges, inter alia, in relation to the cost of haulage. It was further stated that the rates for transport of coal had been low compared to costs of haulage and that in view of the continuing rise in costs, an upward revision was found necessary. It was further stated in the letter that even the revised freight for coal did not cover fully the cost of haulage for long distance over which coal generally moved.

#### IV. LABOUR

##### A. COURT OF INQUIRY: CONTRACT LABOUR

As mentioned in the Report of the previous year, the Government of India in the Ministry of Labour, Employment & Rehabilitation (Department of Labour & Employment), constituted a Court of Inquiry with Sri Benayak Nath Banerjee, Presiding Officer, Central Government Industrial Tribunal, Calcutta as the sole member to consider:—

- (i) Whether the managing and raising-cum-selling contracts should be abolished or not, and
- (ii) What steps should be taken for the progressive abolition of the contract system in the 7 categories which were exempted under the bi-partite settlement dated 30 October 1961.

As stated in the previous year's Report, the Joint Working Committee adopted the written statements filled by the Indian Mining Association, Indian Mining Federation, Indian Colliery Owners' Association and Madhya Pradesh & Vidarbha Mining Association. Sri S. S. Mukherjee, Advocate, appeared on behalf of all the Associations/Federation of the employers and also of NCDC. A summary of the recommendations dated 3 September 1969 made by Sri B. N. Banerjee, sole member of the above Court of Inquiry, was published under Notification No. 8/33/68-LRII, in S.O. No. 3875 in the Gazette of India, Part II, Sec. 3(iii) dated 27 September 1969 a copy of which is being reproduced below.

The recommendations of the Court of Inquiry are as follows:

(a) There has not been substantial progress made in the abolition of raising contract system in collieries. The system is continuing, some in their nascent form, some in their reoriented or re-edited form known as raising-cum-selling contract and most of them are now oral contracts of secretive nature.

(b) Raising-cum-selling contract, is mostly another name for raising contracts excepting a few, which may be genuine ones. This system should be wholly abolished. Collieries may have liberty to appoint selling contractors but not raising-cum-selling contractors.

Recommendation (b) is subject to the proviso that if for some unforeseen exigencies it becomes necessary to employ raising-cum-selling contractor for the time being, permission

in writing from the Regional Labour Commissioner shall be taken. He must thoroughly satisfy himself about the necessity of the appointment before granting permission.

(c) Managing contract system may continue for the present provided always:

- (i) The Government should implement the recommendations of the Dave Court of Inquiry Report contained in paragraphs 33 to 36 of the Report forthwith regarding suitable amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act and the Payment of Wages Act.
- (ii) Licencing authority under Rule 37 of the Mineral Concession Rules must thoroughly satisfy itself about the financial solvency of the Managing Contractor and protection of interests of workmen before granting permission to appoint a particular person or concern as Managing Contractor. Appointment of Managing Contractors and in the manner in which they carry on their work shall be reviewed very closely by the department of Labour in each region.

(d) So far as exempted categories are concerned, categories No. (ii), (iv), (vi) and (vii), Sand loading, Coal loading and unloading, Over-burden removal and earth cutting and soft coke manufacturing should be taken out of exempted categories and collieries should perform these works departmentally. This is subject always to the provision that when it becomes absolutely necessary on any particular occasion, in a particular colliery, to appoint contract labour for any of these categories of work, for the time being, permission of the Regional Labour Commissioner shall be had and ob-

tained, in writing, before appointing such a contractor for a time being. The Regional Commissioner must thoroughly satisfy himself about the necessity before granting the permission.

(c) Easier type of pit sinking and driving of inclines should be managed by collieries with local departmental labour employed, if necessary, for a temporary period. Difficult sinkings and driving of inclines may be entrusted in the hands of expert contractors, with previous permission of the Regional Labour Commissioner obtain in writing. The Regional Labour Commissioner shall thoroughly satisfy himself about the nature of the difficulties and the necessity for particular work only, who must be satisfied about the requirement.

(f) Driving and stone drifts and miscellaneous stone cutting underground may be done departmentally unless of course the nature of the cutting or driving is such which require expert assistance. In such case contractors may be appointed with the previous permission of the Regional Labour Commissioner for that particular work only, who must be satisfied about the requirement.

(g) So far as miscellaneous civil engineering work or intermittent miscellaneous work are concerned, I am of the opinion that they should better be left at the hands of contractors.

The abolition of raising-cum-selling system, and taking over of some amongst the exempted categories of work shall be done as soon as possible but not later than 30th September, 1970.



The Committee of the Federation considered the Report of the Court of Inquiry and the Summary of its recommendations at its meeting held on 10 October 1969 and considered that the purport of the recommendations is to effect the abolition of raising-cum-selling contract and to take other matters of the exempted categories from Contractors' labour by 30 September 1970. The Committee therefore considered that the recommendations if given effect to by the Government will materially affect the normal working of the collieries. In pursuance of the decision of the Committee the Joint Working Committee was asked to make a representation to the Government urging it not to accept the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry which are unrealistic and retrogressive in nature. Accordingly the following representation was made by the JWC to the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Labour, Employment & Rehabilitation (Department of Labour & Employment), New Delhi in its letter No. 1/1101 dated 12 November 1969:—

"The Central Government Court of Inquiry (Coal Mining Industry) presided over by Shri B. N. Banerjee (Sole Member) submitted a Report regarding the abolition of the Contract system prevalent in the Coal Mining Industry as per terms of Reference."

"2. The Report dated the 3rd September, 1969 of the said Court of Inquiry was published in the Gazette of India, dated September 27, 1969 (Part II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii) (Vide Notification No. S.O. 3875 dated the 20th September 1969 of the Ministry of Labour, Employment & Rehabilitation)."

"3. In brief, the said Court of Inquiry recommended that the Managing Contract System may continue for the present with certain proviso. The Raising-cum-Selling Con-

tract as also the Sand loading, Coal loading and unloading, overburden removal and earth cutting and soft coke manufacturing should be abolished and taken up departmentally. The Court also recommended that the easier type of Pit—Sinking and driving of inclines as also driving of stone drift and miscellaneous stone cutting underground work may be done departmentally."

"4. The recommendations of the Court of Inquiry if accepted will greatly hamper and handicap the production of the Collieries. It may kindly be appreciated that the Government and Semi-Government departments have engaged contractors."

"5. The Hon'ble Court of Inquiry failed to appreciate that the Raising-cum-Selling Contractors are in possession and control of the workings of the collieries and are also required to discharge the same statutory obligations as the owners of the collieries themselves. The Raising-cum-Selling Contracts are given either when the properties are not in a position to work the entire area or are financially handicapped. Under the Mineral Concession Rules 1960, the Raising-cum-Selling Contractors have got to obtain necessary certificate and approval of the appropriate Government. The recommendations regarding the abolition of Raising-cum-Selling Contract system will, therefore, be a severe blow to the Coal Mining Industry and the certificate and approval for the same under Mineral Concession Rules will have practically no meaning."

"6. The abolition of other categories of Contract System as mentioned in the said Report, specially the wagon loading contract will also have serious repercussions. It may be appreciated that the supply of wagons, their number and

time are not under the control of the colliery owners, and it will, therefore, be impossible to keep large contingent of wagon loaders on the roll of the colliery companies, to whom no continuous work could be given. The services of Wagon loading Contractors are required only during emergency when more wagons are placed on the siding. These contractors shift their men from colliery to colliery according to their necessities and thus can ensure permanent work to their workmen."

"7. It may please be further noted that in the said Report, the Court of Inquiry has suggested approval of the Regional Labour Commissioner (C) in certain cases of contracts. It may be stated that the Regional Labour Commissioner (C) is neither a technical personnel nor has any experience of any colliery works. This authority given to him is likely to be misused or abused."

"8. The learned Court of Inquiry failed to take a practical view of the utility of the Contract system in practice in the collieries. The Hon'ble Court should have laid greater stress on the witnesses having practical experience in the workings of the collieries including the high Government Officials connected with Coal Mining Industry, namely the Dy. Director General of Mines Safety, the Chief Mining Engineer, Coal Board, instead of relying on theoretical considerations only."

"9. The remedy for removal of any evil in the Contract System did not lie in abolition of the Contract System itself but to suggest remedial methods in shape of legislation."

"10. It may be mentioned that there are already comprehensive and adequate legislation to cope with the payment, mismanagement, and security of service which are applicable to the Contractors as also to the Coal Mine Owners with equal force."

"11. It may also be mentioned that a comprehensive Bill (namely, CONTRACT LABOUR (ABOLITION & REGULATION) BILL) to regulate employment of contract labour is already on the legislative anvil and when passed into Act will apply to all industries. The Coal Industry should not have been singled out for abolition of the Contract System and the Report of the Hon'ble Court may go contrary to the proposed Act. Therefore, there was no ground to discriminate between the Coal Industry and other Industries in the country regarding the dealing of the Contract Labour System."

"12. In view of the above considerations, it is humbly suggested that the recommendations of the said Court of Inquiry be not accepted by the Central Government and the Central Government should await the passing of the pending Central Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Act."

**B. THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR—MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE 26TH SESSION OF THE INDIAN LABOUR CONFERENCE.**

The Government of India in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Department of Labour & Employment) by a Resolution, No. 36/14/66-I & E dated 24 December 1966, appointed a National Commission on Labour under the Chairmanship of Dr. Gajendragadkar, P.B.



- (1) To review the changes in conditions of labour since Independence and to report on existing conditions of labour;
- (2) To review the existing legislative and other provisions intended to protect the interests of labour, to assess their working and to advise how far these provisions serve to implement the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution on labour matters and the national objectives of establishing a socialist society and achieving planned economic development;
- (3) To study and report in particular on—
  - (i) the levels of workers' earnings, the provisions relating to wages, the need for fixation of minimum wages including a national minimum wage, the means of increasing productivity, including the provision of incentives to workers;
  - (ii) the standard of living and the health, efficiency, safety, welfare, housing, training and education of workers and the existing arrangements for administration of labour welfare—both at the centre and in the States;
  - (iii) the existing arrangements for social security;
  - (iv) the state of relations between employers and workers and the role of trade unions and employers' organizations in promoting healthy industrial relations and the interests of the nation;



- (v) the labour laws and voluntary arrangements like the Code of Discipline, Joint Management Councils, Voluntary Arbitration and Wage Boards and the machinery at the Centre and in the States for their enforcement;
  - (vi) measures for improving conditions of rural labour and other categories of unorganised labour; and
  - (vii) existing arrangements for labour intelligence and research; and
- (4) To make recommendations on the above matters.

The Commission submitted its 700-page Report to the Government of India on 28 August 1969. The recommendations were considered at the 26th Session of the Indian Labour Conference held on 12-14 November 1969 at New Delhi.

The Federation Sub-Committee on Labour Laws and Welfare considered the recommendations of the National Commission on Labour, particularly those vitally affecting the Coal Industry. The Committee of the Federation, at its meeting held on 31 October 1969, confirmed the following views formulated by the Sub-Committee, a copy of which was forwarded to the All-India Organization of Employers, under cover of a letter No. 384A/1509 dated 29 October 1969, for discussion at the 26th Session of the Indian Labour Conference;

*Clause 39 (9.43) : National and festival holidays :*

It has been suggested by the National Commission on Labour that the total number of paid national and festival holidays should be 8, out of which 3 should be national and 5 festival holidays. As awarded by the All-India Industrial Tribunal (Colliery Disputes) the Coal Industry is allowing 7 paid holidays, out of which the Republic Day, the Independence Day and Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday are treated as paid holidays without any kind of option to the parties, the rest of the holidays are being fixed by agreement according to the local customs which vary from place to place. The Coal Industry being a basic one and also a Public Utility Service, any further increase in the number of paid holidays would adversely affect coal production and result in national loss.

*Clause 45 (10.32 & 10.33) : Creches :*

In view of the fact that the National Commission on Labour has recommended for reduction of the limit of 50 women workers to 20 eligible children of working mothers for obligatory provision of a creche there is no reason why the Coal Industry should be discriminated and similar provision should not also exist in the Coal Industry in which the setting up of a creche has been made obligatory even in the case of an employment of single woman worker. It is therefore urged that Mines Creche Rules, 1966 is amended on the lines of the recommendations of the National Commission on Labour.

*Clause 46 (10.25 & 10.35) : Canteens :*

As provided under the Mines Rules, 1955, mines employing 250 or more persons have to make provision for

canteens. The National Commission on Labour has suggested that the number of employment should be brought down to 200 where there is an established demand for a canteen from a majority of workers and also that the canteens should provide at least one balanced meal a day. As most of the workmen resides in the areas adjoining the colliery, they are not found to utilize the provision of canteens and rest shelters and the reduction in the required number from 250 to 200 and the provision of one balanced meal a day would put an additional burden on the Industry, the economy of which is already debilitated. The cost of production of this basic commodity has already gone up recently by leaps and bounds owing to enhanced labour amenities and a number of statutory impositions and in order to stabilize the level of prices in the country all efforts should be made to arrest its upward trend.

*Clause 70 (13.22): Workmen's Compensation:*

It is recommended by the Commission that all workmen including supervisors should be eligible for compensation for work injury for which it has been suggested that wage limit for eligibility should also be removed. The suggestion made by the Commission for the inclusion of supervisors in the category of workmen would do away with the distinction between the workmen and the supervisory staff hitherto being recognized under all legislative enactments in almost all the countries in the world. The inclusion of supervisory staff for entitlement of workmen's compensation will bring in severe complications and would give rise to constant disputes on dubious interpretation of the definition of supervisory staff.

*Clause VI (13.24):*

It is suggested by the Commission that arrangements for periodic cash payments might be made to the injured workers and their dependents and that medical care should also be provided to injured workers of coal, mica and iron ore mines.

While welcoming the above suggestion, the Federation would like to draw the attention of the Industrial Committee regarding the difficulties which the workmen are experiencing in obtaining in time the amount of compensation deposited by the collieries with the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner. Inordinate delay is caused in receiving payment from the office of the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner and the workmen and their dependents are constantly harassed from day to day and for months together in the way of obtaining payment from the office. Similar difficulties are very often experienced by the workmen in the withdrawal of provident fund accumulations from the Asansol and Dhanbad offices. Government should take strong and effective action to remove such hardship so that the distressed workmen do not find any difficulty in receiving payment of their dues regularly and in time.

*Clause 82 (13.60 & 13.62): Provident Funds:*

The Commission has suggested to raise the rate of contribution from 8% to 10%. Under the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme the rate of contribution is 8% and a further increase in the rate of contribution would put an additional burden and pre tanto increase the cost of production of a basic commodity which is not at all desirable

at a time when the avowed objective of the Government is to stabilize the existing price level of all commodities, in particular of coal which is a basic commodity.

#### C. SUPPLY OF UNIFORMS TO WORKERS EMPLOYED IN COAL MINES.

It may be recalled that the Government of India in the Ministry of Labour & Employment constituted in the year 1966 a Tripartite Committee to go into all aspects of supplying uniforms to workers employed in coal mines. A questionnaire was issued by the Tripartite Committee to the Federation/Associations of the Industry to fix the basis and criterion and also conditions for supply of uniforms to the workers. The Committee of the Federation in reply to the questionnaire stated amongst others that in view of the alarming economic situation prevailing in the country as a result of inflation and spiralling price increase and the economy of the Coal Industry being at its lowest ebb, it would be most inappropriate to saddle the Industry with further liability in any form which would add to the cost of production and lead to a rise in the price of this basic commodity, the price structure of which was rigidly controlled. The Committee therefore suggested that 50% of the value should be realized from the workers and the balance of 50% should be subsidized from the Coal Mines Welfare Fund.

A number of meetings of the Tripartite Committee were held during the year and a Sub-Committee was constituted at a meeting of the Tripartite Committee held on 12 June 1969 under the Chairmanship of Shri S. N. Pande, Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner, with Sri R. G. Deo, the Director General of Mines Safety, as Chairman, Sri Rasiklal



Worah, a representative of the employers and Sri R. N. Sharma, a representative of Labour, to study the various aspects of supplying uniforms to coalminers and lay down a phased programme for the supply of uniforms to different categories of workers with an order of priority for supply to the various categories.

The Sub-Committee met on 17 September 1969 in the office of the Director General of Mines Safety when it was decided to seek the views of the central organizations of workers and employers regarding whether the following basis was acceptable for supply of uniforms to mine workers:—

- (i) Face workers employed underground should get the first priority and they should be supplied with the uniforms forthwith;
- (ii) Other workers employed underground and all workers employed in opencast workings should have the second priority;
- (iii) All workers employed above ground should have the third priority.

As ascertained from the records of the Director-General of Mines Safety (a) the face workers employed underground constituted 40%, (b) other workers employed underground and all workers employed in the opencast workings constituted 32%, (c) all workers employed above ground constituted 28% of the total workers employed in the Coal Mining Industry.

The matter was considered by the Joint Working Committee and the Industry's views were communicated to the Director General of Mines Safety in a letter, No. 3/1014 dated 9 October 1969, addressed by the Joint Working Committee to the Director General of Mines Safety. It was stated in the letter that since the Industry had agreed to supply uniforms at concessional rates the position had considerably changed.

Firstly, the letter pointed out, the Mazumdar Award was issued in the context of the Industry not being in a position to pay a need-based wage despite the fact that an increase of Rs. 3/- per tonne in Bengal & Bihar was necessary to cover the cost of implementation of that Award.

Secondly, the wage structure had undergone a very substantial upward revision by the Wage Board for the Coal Industry which accepted the norms evolved at the 15th Labour Conference and had included the cost of clothing as an element in the minimum wage for coal workers.

Thirdly, uniforms were not and cannot be considered to be in the category of "safety equipment" and must therefore be treated on an entirely different basis.

Fourthly, in view of the steadily deteriorating finance of coal companies as borne out by the Reserve Bank and other independent authorities, coupled by consumer resistance to increased prices as borne out by the attitude of the Railyways in the recent prices negotiations and the refusal of steel plants to raise prices further, the Industry did not have the resources to meet any liability in this regard.

Finally, if uniforms were to be provided the following conditions must be fulfilled:

- (a) the workers must pay the full cost;
- (b) the workers must be obliged to use the uniforms;
- (c) the uniforms should only be supplied on a written requisition from the workmen;
- (d) managements should not be burdened with any liability for purchasing uniforms and stocking them, thus trying up finance desperately needed for development and improvement of safety measures etc.

Alternatively, it was suggested that the Coal Mines Welfare Organization should make the necessary arrangements for the supply of uniforms either at cost or at subsidized rates, the subsidy to the workers being borne by the Fund.

The Joint Working Committee asked the Sub-Committee and also the main Tripartite Committee to consider the above views and make recommendations on the above lines if practical shape was to be given to the proposed scheme for the supply of uniforms to the mine workers.

The question of supply of uniforms and also of miners' footwear was discussed at the 11th Session of the Industrial Committee on coal mining held on 6 November 1969 at New Delhi and the representatives of the Industry reiterated its views communicated earlier to the effect that it did not have the financial capacity to supply free of charge footwear and uniforms to miners within the scope of its present price structure dictated by the Railways and other Government

consumers. It was further emphasized by the Industry that the recent negotiation with the Railways had amply demonstrated the impossibility of obtaining any relief on this or any other account. It was therefore urged that until such time as the Industry was financially in a position to supply uniforms and boots free of charge, the question should be held in abeyance.

#### D. RECOVERY OF PROVIDENT FUND CONTRIBUTION AT FIXED FLAT RATES.

The Central Government and the Board of Trustees of the Coal Mines Provident Fund had been considering for some time past the feasibility of substituting the present ad-valorem rate of contribution to the Coal Mines Provident Fund by different fixed flat rates for different categories of workers. The outline of the scheme for recovery of Provident Fund contribution at fixed flat rates is as follows:—

- (i) All the members of the Fund should be divided into a number of categories;
- (ii) A member's daily earnings (total emoluments) on the first day of the year should be the basis for his categorisation.
- (iii) Fixed flat rates of Provident Fund contribution should be prescribed for each category on the basis of assumed weekly/monthly earnings determined by multiplying the daily earnings by six or thirty, as the case may be.
- (iv) Categorisation once made shall remain unchanged throughout the year and recategorisation would be permissible at the beginning of each year.



The C.M.P.F. Commissioner in his letter No. CPF/113/61 dated 4/5 April 1969 invited the views of the Federation on the above scheme. The Committee of the Federation duly considered the proposed scheme and found it totally unacceptable to the Industry in view of the gross inequity involved in the system and also on the following grounds:—

(1) Division of workers into several categories on the basis of different slabs of earnings for the purpose of Provident Fund at fixed flat rates would confer benefit on one group of workmen at the cost of others. Categorization on the basis of slabs of earnings would therefore be strongly resented by those workmen whose earnings would be near the maximum of the slab.

(2) The proposal to fix the basis of categorization on the members' daily earnings on the first day of the year would be far from fair and equitable in view of the fact that the workers' daily earnings are not uniform on all the days and months. As a result, the interests of those workmen who failed to earn the maximum amount owing to some adverse circumstances and earned only a bare minimum on the day, would be seriously prejudiced if this inequitable system is given effect to. Moreover, if, owing to fortuitous circumstances a workman earns the maximum on the first day of the year and his earnings are reduced during the subsequent period of the year, the employer will have to make a higher contribution at the rate specified for a higher category and thus suffer a loss. It may further be pointed out that the earnings of many of the workmen-members on the first day of the year may not at all be available on account of various factors beyond the control of the workmen, namely, a half day's work, leave, sickness, absence and, further, the weekly day of rest might also fall on the first day of the year. If this system is implemented it is feared that there



would be much dissatisfaction amongst the workers; particularly those who are at the highest level of earnings during the rest of the year would be deprived of their provident fund contribution and they would be compelled to lose the maximum benefit of the C.M.P.F.

(3) The proposal to fix a flat rate of provident fund contribution on the basis of assumed weekly or monthly earnings would also result in gross inequity in view of the fact that the amount of monthly salary and weekly wages of workmen vary frequently as a result of increment or promotion and additional earnings for overtime work. In the case of piece-rated workers, the quantum of earnings or weekly or monthly earnings would also widely vary. It will therefore neither be fair and just nor equitable to fix flat rates of provident fund contribution on the basis of weekly or monthly earnings as suggested.

(4) The proposal that categorization once made should remain unchanged throughout the year is not equitable because the earnings of workmen, particularly of piece-rated workmen, widely vary, and it will be against all canons of justice and equity to fix the category on the basis of wages on the first day of the year which is calculated to give rise to a tendency amongst the workmen to earn more by extra efforts before categorization, subsequently slowing down their work with the result that the employers would have to compensate the contributions throughout the year on the basis of flat rates once fixed on the first day of the year.

The above proposal would saddle the colliery staff with additional work and much confusion and difficulty would arise as a result of categorization of workmen on a fictitious

basis as against the categorization of workmen already done under the recommendations of the Wage Board.

It is understood that no decision has yet been taken on the proposed scheme.

#### E. 11TH SESSION OF THE INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE ON COAL MINING.

The 11th Session of the Industrial Committee on Coal Mining was held on 6 November 1969 in the Committee Room (1st floor), "C Wing", Shram Shakti Bhavan, New Delhi. Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman, attended the Session as a delegate accompanied by Sri H. N. Mookherjee, Vice-Chairman, as adviser.

The following items on the agenda were discussed at the above Session :

- (1) Action taken on the Main Conclusion of the 10th Session of the Industrial Committee on Coal Mining held at Dhanbad on the 30th January 1967.
- (2) Further action on the recommendations of the Coal Wage Board relating to gratuity, house-rent, leave, Attendance Bonus, etc.
- (3) Implementation of the recommendations of the Coal Wage Board.
- (4) Amendment of Coal Mines Regulations, 1957, to provide for retirement age of managers, officials, etc.
- (5) Injury Leave.

- (6) Imposition of Electrical Supervisor and Surveyor by the Department of Mines (Directorate General Mines Safety).
- (7) Supply of Uniforms and Footwear.
- (8) Coalfield Recruiting Organisation.

The views of the Federation Sub-Committee on Labour Laws and Welfare on the various items on the agenda of the above Session and confirmed by the Committee are given below:

*Item No. 1:* Action taken on the main conclusions/recommendations of the 9th Session of the Committee—Calcutta—August 1964.

- (i) Quick implementation of water supply schemes.

Although it was decided to set up a three-man committee for quick implementation of water supply schemes in the coalfield which should meet at least once every 3 months for the purpose, no effective steps appear to have been taken so far excepting the recommendation said to have been made at a meeting of the Sub-Committee on 3.1.69 for expediting implementation of water supply schemes. The recommendations of the Sub-Committee have not been made known to the industry. The Federation therefore considered that the matter should be vigorously followed up to avoid inordinate delay in implementing water supply schemes in the coalfield.

## (ii) Abolition of C.R.O.

It had been made clear in the note of the Labour Ministry that there was no discrimination at present between Gorakhpur labour and other labour in any matter.

## (ii)(c): Abolition of contract labour:

The report of the Court of Inquiry constituted by the Government in August 1968 under the Chairmanship of Sri B. B. Banerjee had already been published in the Gazette under S.O. 3875 dated 28.9.69 and the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Bill 1967 was likely to be taken up at the next session of Parliament which provided for the setting up of tripartite advisory Boards and the registration of establishments employing contract labour and gave power to the Central/State Governments to prohibit employment of contract labour in any establishment etc. etc.

*Item No. 3:* Compensation to workers dismissed for being medically unfit:

*Item No. 4:* Termination of services of workmen in the coal mines on medical grounds:

The report of the Committee under the Chairmanship of the D.G.M.S. to provide rehabilitation facilities to disabled miners was being awaited.

*Item No. 5:* Employment situation in Coal Mining Industry.

Employment Exchanges are already functioning in the coalfields of West Bengal, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.

*Item No. 6:* Study of the implementation of the Bi partite Agreement and the Report of the Court of Inquiry on Abolition of Contract System in Coal Mines:

As the Contract Labour (Abolition and Regulation) Bill, 1967 was likely to be taken up in the next session of the Parliament, the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry regarding abolition of contract labour would hardly receive any consideration of the Government.

*Item No. 7:* Report of the Technical Committee on Miners' Boots:

*Item No. 8:* Report of the Tripartite Committee on Miners' Boots:

The cost of providing footwear had been assessed at 31 P. per tonne. After decontrol of the Coal Industry it was hardly possible for coal producers to realize this extra amount in the form of higher price from the consumers. The liability of supplying footwear should be borne by the workmen whose average weekly cash earnings had increased from Rs. 15.00 in 1956 to Rs. 48.44 in September 1968.

*Item No. 9:* Progress in payment of bonus under the Bonus Act:

Most of the collieries in the organized sector were paying bonus according to the Bonus Act.



*Item No. 2:* Further action on the recommendations of the Coal Wage Board relating to gratuity, house rent, leave, attendance bonus, etc.

(1) *Gratuity:*

The Wage Board was unanimously of the opinion that the object of a gratuity scheme would be better and more effectively served if a separate fund was created from the proceeds of a cess from the consumers and the Fund should be administered by the Board of Trustees of the Coal Mines Provident Fund or a similar tripartite autonomous body. The Government's decision was that the Board's recommendations regarding introduction of a gratuity scheme should be examined by the Government and a decision would be taken thereon in due course. The balance under the sub-heading, "Unclaimed Bonus" as on 31.7.68 was Rs. 1,53,517.43. The Provident Fund Act might be amended accordingly.

(2) *House Rent Allowance:*

The recommendation for the payment of house rent allowance was not unanimous. It should however be pointed out that the Coal Mining Wage Board in assessing the minimum was of Rs. 144.82 calculated the cost as follows:

Food	...	Rs. 96.00
Clothing	...	Rs. 7.36
House rent	...	Rs. 12.50
Miscellaneous	...	Rs. 28.96
		<hr/>
		Rs. 144.82

It will thus be observed that the element of house rent was taken into consideration while fixing the minimum wage and as such the scheme for extra house rent did not all stand to reason.

(3) *Leave:*

Absenteeism is proverbial in the Coal Mining Industry and the granting of further leave was not unanimously recommended by the Wage Board. If it is accepted by the Government it would only promote indolence and hamper production.

(4) *Attendance Bonus:*

As already stated, the existing condition of minimum attendance to qualify for bonus should be retained and not dispensed with in view of the fact that it would take away the workmen's incentive to regular attendance and work and would encourage indolence and absenteeism.

*Item No. 3: Implementation of the Recommendations of the Coal Wage Board:*

It was recommended by the Wage Board that the expenditure incurred on account of Tuberculosis, cancer, leprosy and occupational diseases should be made from the general fund at the disposal of the Coal Mines Welfare Organization and that paid leave facilities should also be applicable to the workmen suffering from occupational diseases. The Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund is to implement the recommendations accordingly.

*Item No. 4: Amendment of Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 to provide for retirement age of managers, officials, etc.*

The proposal was earlier considered by the Committee of the Federation when the draft of the proposed amendment was circulated for comments by October 1968. The Committee earlier considered that the proposed amendment would deprive the Industry of the valuable services of experienced mine managers many of whom after the age of 60 were found to be physically fit and mentally alert and that if the Government considered it expedient to enforce the regulation to ease the problem of unemployment, the Federation considered why employees of all undertakings should not be compelled to retire at the age of 60.

*Item No. 5: Injury Leave:*

There is adequate provision for facilities of leave etc. under the Workmen's Compensation Act and there is hardly any justification for granting further leave in addition to what has been provided under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

*Item No. 7: Supply of Uniforms and Footwear:*

As earlier decided by the Federation as well as the Joint Working Committee on the basis of which a representation had already been made to the D.G.M.S. to the effect that the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Organization should make necessary arrangements for the supply of uniforms at cost price or at subsidized rates, the subsidy should be borne by the Fund.

*Item No.8: Coalfield Recruiting Organisation:*

As already stated no discrimination was being made between the C.R.O. labour and other labour recruited locally.

A summary note on the discussions held at the above session is given below:

1. *Gratuity:*

This was supported by the Industry on the clear condition that it would be made applicable as per Wage Board recommendations, which meant by levy of a cess on consumers and would be disbursed through the Coal Mines Welfare Fund.

2. *V.D.A.:*

It was pointed out and appreciated by the Government, that the majority of the companies had started paying Rs. 1.29 in West Bengal and others were on the point of doing so. The whole discussion centred round the collieries in Bihar, specially belonging to such groups as Birds, Turners, Chanchani-Worah, who had implemented this recommendation in Bengal but not in Bihar. There was a heated discussion and the Minister wanted a definite commitment from the Industry that the Bihar collieries would pay. The Government turned a deaf ear to the Industry's plea of practical difficulties in price increase of coking coal by stating that prices were none of their concern. The Industry assured them of its intention to pay to the labour

and undertook to urge the members to make increased payment, but, naturally, could not definitely commit itself. The Minister stated that he would not be responsible for any violence or strikes that might take place since the Industry was not heeding the Government's appeal.

The Minister however did not state that the strikes would be considered legal, though the labour representatives did say that in such event the strikes should be treated as 'legal'.

### 3. *Abolition of C.R.O.:*

As regards Gorakhpur Labour Organization, there was already a decision taken to abolish it as far back as 1963 and was subsequently reconfirmed in August 1964 in the Industrial Committee meeting. In the Indian Labour Conference held in February 1967, Sri Hathi made a categorical statement that it would be abolished before the end of 1968. The Industry was therefore not in a position to oppose it.

The Minister however did not commit to abolish it, but stated that he would let the labour representatives know the decision in 2/3 days since the U. P. Government had to be consulted, who had been opposing abolition on the ground of unemployment of labour.

### 4. *Mine Managers' Retirement:*

On this point, there was not much discussion since the representatives of mine managers themselves stated that if the gratuity scheme was made applicable to the managers,



they were not keen to continue after the age of 60. The Minister confirmed that the gratuity would be made applicable in their case also.

5. The Industry pointed out that some of the Wage Board recommendations for relief on leprosy, tuberculosis, silicosis, etc. had not been implemented till now by the Government itself, even though the Coal Mines Welfare Organization had sent the papers to the Government. Sri Naik pointed out that if these were implemented the expenses of Coal Mines Welfare Organization would go up by Rs. 26 lacs per year. The representatives of the Industry stated in reply that when it came to implementation by the Government they talked of financial difficulties but they were not prepared to consider the Industry's financial difficulties. Sri Bhagwat Jha Azad gave a lame reply saying that the Government's money was public money whereas the private collieries were making huge profits and were not fulfilling their obligations to labour.

#### 6. *Attendance Bonus:*

Labour made a strong plea for abolition of this bonus stating that there was no rationale behind this and it also did not exist in any other industry except coal. Sri Hathi stated that though the Wage Board had recommended abolition of attendance bonus, he had not agreed because absenteeism would go up and attendance would act as an incentive. He said that he had now been told that absenteeism had gone down and therefore he felt inclined to believe differently. The representatives of the Industry pointed out that according to their own figures, absenteeism had gone up from 12 and odd per cent to 13 and odd per cent. The

Industry strongly opposed the abolition of attendance bonus. The Press Reports that the Committee took the decision to abolish was therefore absolutely incorrect.

The statement of Sri K. P. Ghosh, West Bengal Labour Minister, was not at all correct. He did not speak a single word at the meeting and it was established beyond doubt that as far as West Bengal was concerned, there was no complaint of non-implementation. It was borne out even by the statement of Sri Deven Sen. In fact, towards the end of the meeting the Industry commented on Sri Hathi's opening remarks and asked him what he wished to do about the law and order situation. He stated that he called Sri K. P. Ghosh, particularly, for this but considering the unco-operative attitude of the employers on V.D.A. payment, he could not say anything to the State Government or the labour. Sri V. K. Poddar asked him specifically whether he was really convinced himself that all the trouble was due to non-implementation, to which he replied that it was mostly due to non-implementation. The Industry, of course, did not agree.

It was felt that the attitude of both the Government and the labour had been not very co-operative at all and in fact they were unfair in siding with labour even when it was not necessary.

The main conclusions of the 11th session of the Industrial Committee on Coal Mining held on 6 November 1969, at New Delhi, are given below:

# CONCLUSIONS REFERRED TO:

*Item 1 : Action taken on the Main Conclusions of the 10th Session of the Industrial Committee on Coal Mining held at Dhanbad on the 30th January, 1967.*

The Statement of Action taken was noted subject to the following:—

(a) It was urged by the workers' representatives that the problem of water supply should be tackled in an expeditious manner;

(b) It was noted that the progress in regard to housing of workers was very slow. The percentage of workers housed was quite low even in the case of some of the best companies where availability of land did not create any problem;

(c) The Chairman urged that at least bigger collieries should revise their Standing Orders on the basis of Model Standing Orders within three months;

(d) It was pointed out that very few cases of malafide dismissal on medical grounds were reported to Government. As regards bonafide termination on medical grounds, compensation should be paid to workers concerned. Introduction of a scheme of gratuity which in principle was accepted, would be a good solution to the problem;

(e) It was stated that Contract Labour (Abolition & Regulation) Bill was before Parliament and was likely to be taken

up in the next session. The Special situations brought out by the Court of Inquiry and which could not be covered by the Bill may have to be covered through special legislation.

*Item 2: Further action on the recommendations of the Coal Wage Board relating to gratuity, house-rent, leave, attendance bonus, etc.*

The Chairman announced that the Government of India had accepted, in principle, the need for a gratuity scheme for Coal Mines workers and that the details of the scheme would be finalised shortly.

The Chairman stated that the existing condition regarding minimum attendance qualification for payment of attendance bonus needed to be reconsidered with a view to this requirement being dispensed with.

*Item 3: Implementation of the recommendations of the Coal Wage Board.*

The Chairman stated that there was no justification for the employers to withhold payment of variable dearness allowance at the rates recommended by the Wage Board. He hoped that all employers would pay variable dearness allowance of Rs. 1.29 from October, 1969.

As regards the grant of special long leave with pay to workers suffering from T.B., cancer, etc., the Chairman explained that it would not be possible for the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund to pay the leave salary. The payment of leave salary is a matter for the employers.

*Item 4: Amendment of Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 to provide for retirement age of managers, officials etc.*

This item was postponed.

*Item 5: Injury Leave.*

No conclusion was arrived at. The employers were opposed to this on the ground that the industry has no financial capacity to bear this additional burden.

*Item 6: Imposition of Electrical Supervisor and Surveyor by the Department of Mines (Directorate General Mines Safety).*

The employers suggested that there should be a joint Supervisor and Surveyor for a number of small mines. The workers did not agree to this suggestion. It was agreed that the D.G.M.S. will examine the matter further.

*Item 7: Supply of Uniforms and Footwear.*

It was emphasised that employers should be prepared to supply boots as this was a statutory obligation. Should there be any difficulty in procuring supplies, attempts would be made to assist the employers to obtain them. Where workers were unwilling to use them, trade unions would use their good offices to persuade them to do so.



*Item 8: Coalfield Recruiting Organisation.*

The employers stated that they had no objection to the abolition of the Coalfield Recruiting Organisation (the Coalfield Recruiting Organisation is an Employers' Organisation). The Chairman then announced that the Government of India had decided to withdraw from this whole recruiting activity of Gorakhpur Labour.

F. COMMITTEE TO GO INTO THE PROBLEMS  
OF DISABLED MINERS

The Government of India, Ministry of Labour, Employment & Rehabilitation set up a Committee early in 1968 to go into the problems of disabled miners under the Chairmanship of Director General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad. The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:—

- (1) to examine the extent of benefits at present available to mine workers declared medically unfit under the Regulations or otherwise, or disabled by accidents, or by pneumoconiosis as defined for purposes of the Workmen's Compensation Act, and to recommend what further benefits could be given;
- (2) to examine in all its aspects, the question of rehabilitation/re-employment of such persons and particularly to consider and make recommendations in this regard for—
- (3) the setting up of one or more production-cum-training institutes for disabled persons producing such equipment and materials as could be absorbed by the

mining industry assessing the requirements of the industry for such produce;

- (i) the setting up of such industries as may absorb the persons trained in the production-cum-training institutes;
- (ii) to suggest arrangements for the imparting of adequate training to the doctors for purposes of diagnosis of \*pneumoconiosis as defined for purposes of the Workmen's Compensation Act; and
- (4) to consider how managers and mine officials not at present covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act or any insurance Scheme could be compensated in case of accident and to make suitable recommendations therefore.

\* ("Pneumoconiosis" means silicosis or coal miners Pneumoconiosis or abestosis or bagassosis or any of those diseases accompanied by pulmonary tuberculosis).

The Committee of the Federation noted with concern the proposal for payment of compensation in case of accidents to the managers and mine officials and also for payment of proportionate compensation to them for partial and permanent disability. The Committee failed to understand how the above body described as "The Committee to go into the problems of disabled miners" could consider matters with regard to payment of compensation to managers and mine officials in case of accidents causing partial and permanent disability.

In the first meeting of the above two Sub-Committees were formed. Shri S. K. Agarwalla, Jr. Vice-Chairman of the I.C.O.A. and Shri S. N. Mullick, represents the J.W.C. on the first and second Sub-Committees respectively. The first Sub-Committee is to consider items 1 and 4 of the terms of reference of the main Committee. The first Sub-Committee meeting was held on 29.4.68 at which the following members were present:—

- (1) Mr. V. C. Varma, Convenor.
- (2) A Representative of the Coal Mines Welfare Organisation.
- (3) Shri Sunil Sen of Colliery Mazdoor Sabha.
- (4) Mr. T. C. Anand of the National Association of Colliery Managers.
- (5) Mr. A. V. Brahma of Indian Mine Managers Association.
- (6) Shri S. K. Agarwalla.

In the meeting it was decided as under:—

- (1) The present benefit available to mine workers declared medically unfit or disabled by accidents or by occupational disease is sufficient.

Mr. Sunil Sen did not agree to the above.

- (2) With regard to the workers who were declared medically unfit for natural diseases such as cancer, T.B. etc., the labour representative insisted that if the services of such

workers were terminated, they would get retrenchment benefit to which Shri Agarwalla did not agree.

It was ultimately decided that compensation, if any, would be paid by the Coal Mines Welfare Organization on the merit of each case. Shri Agarwalla vehemently opposed the decision on the ground that the collieries were not in a position to pay any compensation in such cases.

(3) With regard to item 2 i.e. compensation in case of accidents of managers and mine officials, Shri Agarwalla did not commit anything and he had asked for a week's time to submit the views of J.W.C. on the subject. The members of both the Mine Managers Associations had suggested the following compensation in case of death of mine officials owing to accidents which was also supported by the labour representative:—

(a) Officials above the rank of Agent	... Rs. 1,00,000/-
(b) Agents and Senior Managers	... Rs. 75,000/-
(c) Managers	... Rs. 50,000/-
(d) Second Class Managers	... Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- according to the seniority.

Besides the above compensation, Mine Managers' Associations had also asked proportionate compensation in respect of partial and permanent disability.

The matter was referred to the J.W.C. which strongly felt that as a matter of principle, the Industry's representative on the Committee should refuse to discuss this question since it would be tantamount to discussing the terms of service of managerial staff together with labour and junior staff. The J.W.C. further considered that the stand should be taken by the Industry's representatives irrespective of the fact that individual companies had already covered their managers and senior staff through Personal Accident Insurance policies which, in many cases, provided better cover than the rates of compensation suggested by the representatives of the Association of Mine Managers. The J.W.C. was strongly of the view that with regard to disabled miners, any attempt to extend the definition should be resisted. What was generally understood throughout the world by "disabled miners" was miners whose disablement was caused by accidents or by Pneumoconiosis, etc. The term "disablement" should not, therefore, cover persons suffering from tuberculosis, cancer or other diseases which were common to mankind and were not connected with a person's work and were primarily the responsibility of the State or of the Coal Mines Welfare Organization but certainly not of collieries.

## V. MISCELLANEOUS

### A. MEMBERSHIP

The following applicants were enlisted as members of the Indian Mining Federation during the period covered by this Report and up to the time of writing the Report subject to confirmation at the Annual General Meeting in terms of Article 9 of the Articles of Association of the Federation bringing the total membership of the Federation to 207:—



1. M/s. Eses & Co.,  
Mohanpur Colliery,  
P.O. Kharkharce (Dhanbad).
2. M/s. New Katras Coal Co.,  
New Katras Colliery,  
P.O. Katrasgarh (Dhanbad).
3. M/s. Selected Govindpur Coal Concern,  
Selected Govindpur Colliery,  
P.O. Katrasgarh (Dhanbad).
4. M/s. Mustafec & Co.,  
Khas Katras Colliery,  
P.O. Katras Bazar (Dhanbad).
5. M/s. Eastern Mining Syndicate,  
Domnara Colliery,  
North Alambazari Road,  
Nagpur-1.
6. M/s. Banerjee Trading Co. (P) Ltd.,  
Kasta Bengal Colliery,  
P.O. Barakar (Burdwan).
7. M/s. Selected Dalurband Coal Co. (P) Ltd.,  
Selected Samla Colliery,  
P.O. Pandaveswar (Burdwan).
8. M/s. Jealgora Gobindpur Coal Trading Co.,  
Jealgora Gobindpur Colliery,  
Post Box No. 3,  
Jharia (Dhanbad).

9. M/s. Industrial Supplies 'P' Ltd.,  
(Kutchi) Balihari Colliery,  
F-2, Gillander House,  
8, Netaji Subhas Road,  
Calcutta-1.
10. M/s. New Standard Coal Co. 'P' Ltd.,  
Lodna & Suratand Colliery,  
27 Palace Court,  
1, Kyd Street,  
Calcutta-16.
11. M/s. South Goluckdih Coal Co.,  
South Goluckdih Colliery,  
105, Park Street,  
Calcutta.
12. M/s. Pure Joyramdih Colliery Co.,  
Pure Joyramdih Colliery,  
105, Park Street,  
Calcutta.
13. M/s. Searsole Mining Industries 'P' Ltd.,  
North Searsole Colliery,  
P.O. Searsole Rajbari (Burdwan).
14. M/s. North Dhemo Coal Co. Ltd.,  
Burra Dhemo Colliery,  
P.O. Sitarampur (Burdwan).
15. M/s. Khas Joyrampur Colliery Co. Ltd.,  
Khas Joyrampur Colliery,  
18, Netaji Subhas Road,  
Calcutta-1.

16. M/s. Bharat Mining Corporation Ltd.,  
Babisole Colliery,  
91, Stephen House (5th Floor),  
Dalhousie Square East,  
Calcutta-1.
17. M/s. United Karanpura Collieries 'P' Ltd.,  
Churi Colliery,  
91, Stephen House (5th Floor),  
Dalhousie Square East,  
Calcutta 1.
18. M/s. J. K. Gorai & Co.,  
Sree Lakhimata Colliery,  
P.O. Chirkunda (Dhanbad).
19. The Amalgamated Coalfields Ltd.,  
Datla West Colliery,  
Poddar Court,  
18, Rabindra Sarani,  
Calcutta-1.
20. The Amalgamated Coalfields Ltd.,  
Eklehra Colliery,  
Poddar Court,  
18, Rabindra Sarani,  
Calcutta-1.
21. The Amalgamated Coalfields Ltd.,  
Bhamori Colliery,  
Poddar Court,  
18, Rabindra Sarani,  
Calcutta-1.

22. The Amalgamated Coalfields Ltd.,  
Rawanwara Colliery,  
Poddar Court,  
18, Rabindra Sarani,  
Calcutta-1.
23. The Jamai Majri Coal Co. Ltd.  
Sukri Mine,  
Poddar Court,  
18, Rabindra Sarani,  
Calcutta-1.

#### B. COALFIELD COMMITTEES

##### INDIAN MINING FEDERATION BRANCH EXECUTIVE JHARIA.

Sri Dinendranath Dash continued to be the Honorary Secretary of the Jharia Branch Executive for the year 1969. A report on the activities of the Branch, as received from Sri Dash, is given below:

The Jharia Branch suffered an irreparable loss during the year by the death of its President, Sri M. Sengupta, who passed away suddenly in March. Sri Dinendranath Dash continued to be the Honorary Secretary of the Branch Executive for the year.

During the year the Jharia Branch Executive held two Emergency and one Ordinary meetings and it extended an invitations to all member collieries in the Bihar field to place

their grievances before it with a view to taking them up with the authorities concerned. The main among those grievances were occasional failure of powers supplied by the Bihar State Electricity Board, erratic wagon supply, difficulties of treatment in Central and Regional Hospitals and other important subjects. These were discussed and necessary action taken.

The officials of the Branch maintained a close contacts with the authorities, apprising them of the various problems of the Coal Industry and offering suggestions for their solution.

The monthly rent collection from the Pilot Employment Exchange was satisfactory throughout the year.

#### LM.F. RANIGANJ BRANCH EXECUTIVE & RANIGANJ COALFIELD COMMITTEE.

Sri N. B. Lall Singha and Sri D. D. Mondal continued to hold the office of the President and Hony. Secretary respectively of the LM.F. Raniganj Branch Executive and Raniganj Coalfield Committee during the year under report.

A short review of the activities of the LM.F. Raniganj Branch Executive and Raniganj Coalfield Committee during the year 1969, as received from Sri N. B. Lall Singha, is given below:

The members of both the Branch Executive and Coalfield Committee took a keen interest in the activities of the Branch Executive and Coalfield Committee. In all 8 Ordinary Joint meetings were held in the year under report.



Attendance of the members were very satisfactory. This Branch kept in close touch with the collieries in this part of the coalfield and rendered useful services and guidance to the member collieries.

The year under report was a year of gheraos, clashes among workers due to inter-party rivalries, dacoities in the coalfield areas. Efforts to stop violent clashes in the collieries in the Asansol-Raniganj belt by setting up a United Front Committee comprising several constituent parties of the U.F. have come to naught. It is felt that the implementation of the Trade Union Bill, under which the management will have to recognize the most representative union selected by secret ballot, would put to an end the inter-party clashes over the control of the unions in the collieries.

In the year under report this Committee in its different meetings discussed the following among other important matters and took appropriate action:—

1. Law and Order situation in the coalfield.
2. Theft of coal from loaded wagons.
3. Implementation of the Wage Board recommendations.
4. The phenomenal increase in the rate of cesses and taxes in West Bengal. This matter was represented to the Hon'ble Minister Sri Sushil Kumar Dhara when he visited this coalfield.
5. The draft Coal Mines (Amendment) Regulations, 1969. This Committee submitted to the Federation elaborate comments on the subject.

6. Acquisition of coal-bearing land in the Raniganj field by the National Coal Development Corporation Ltd., under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957.

The President submitted various notes in regard to Royalty and other matters to the Chairman of the Federation in the year under review.

C. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AT ITS 43RD ANNUAL SESSION AT NEW DELHI.

In accordance with the decision of the Committee the following Draft Resolutions on:

(1) Talk of nationalization of collieries and

(2) Violence and lawlessness in West Bengal Coalfields have been sent to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (for consideration of Resolution Sub-Committee and for inclusion in the agenda of the above session of the Federation).

NO. 1: TALK OF NATIONALIZATION OF COLLIERIES :

The Committee of the Federation expresses its great concern at the talk of nationalization of coking coal as well as of selected collieries producing non-coking coal during the recent debates in Parliament. In the context of the pivotal role assigned to the private sector collieries in achieving increased production of coal that would be required by the coun-

try at the end of the Fourth and subsequent Plan periods, the bogey of nationalization of Coal Industry will undoubtedly shake the entire structure of the private sector Coal Industry and destroy the basis of production of coal to be required in the coming years. In view of the fact that increased coal production can be achieved only under an assured atmosphere, the private sector cannot be expected to go ahead with its plans for future expansion and make huge investment if the threat of nationalization constantly hangs over its head like the 'Sword of Damocles'. The Federation, therefore, urges that a categorical policy decision should be announced by the Government to allay and remove the misunderstanding and apprehension caused in the Coal Industry by the recent statement made at the Lok Sabha.

#### NO. 2: VIOLENCE AND LAWLESSNESS IN WEST BENGAL COALFIELD:

The Committee of the Federation views with serious concern the spate of lawlessness, indiscipline, gheraos and violence particularly in the West Bengal coalfield primarily as a result of rivalry between unions owing allegiance to different political parties and often engineered to achieve political ends by rival unions and interested parties. The whole coal-belt of West Bengal has been seriously affected and coal production has also considerably hampered. It has been assessed that strikes and gheraos in West Bengal are costing the nation on an average at least Rs. 1 crore daily in lost output. Many business houses are reported to have already shifted their registered offices from Calcutta. Inter-union rivalry and clashes in West Bengal coalfields had disrupted the peaceful atmosphere of the area and colliery managers and supervisory staff have been living in a regular reign of terror. The Committee of the Federation therefore urges that strong and effective remedial measures should be taken to put a stop to the present alarming drift.

## D. BANK OF BEHAR LIMITED—MORATORIUM

The Bank of Behar Ltd., being one of the oldest scheduled banks mainly operating in the Jharia coal-belt, having been established 58 years ago and having 25 branches in Bihar, 3 in Uttar Pradesh and one in West Bengal, most of the small and medium-sized collieries in Jharia coal-belt had been transacting the major part of their business through their accounts with the Bank. Many of such collieries had also arrangement with the Bank in the form of financial accommodation having a duly sanctioned limit of credit facilities against bills and other securities. As a result of a sudden declaration of a moratorium under a Government Notification No. F. 17(10)-BC/69 dated 8 August 1969 published under S.O. No. 3319 in the Gazette of India (Part II, Sec. 3—sub-section (ii) dated 23 August 1969 on the Bank of Behar, those collieries which had long-standing accounts with the Bank and enjoying credit facilities within a specified limit were hard hit and it became extremely difficult for many of them to make weekly payment of wages to their workmen not to speak of meeting other financial obligations. It was not possible for such collieries to make an immediate arrangement for financial accommodation with any other bank, as it usually takes a long time, particularly for a new customer, to make such credit arrangement with a new bank. As a result of freezing of their accounts and the locking up of their finances, member collieries of the Federation, who had accounts with the Bank of Behar, suffered an almost complete financial paralysis. A representation was made by the Federation to Sri P. C. Sethi, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance, in its letter No. 1212 dated 19 August 1969 emphasizing the need for making some alternative arrangement for financial accommodation so that the managements of such collieries might not be compelled to close down their collieries.

Sri P. C. Sethi was pleased to make a re-assuring state-



ment in the Rajya Sabha on 14 August 1969 to the following effect :

"Regarding colliery owners having accounts in the Bank of Behar, Mr. Sethi said that they could approach the State Bank which would within the framework of rules try to accommodate them for purposes of payment of salaries to the workers."

In the light of the above statement a number of collieries and a few representatives of the Federation approached the State Bank of India to extend financial accommodation which were hitherto being allowed by the Bank of Behar within the framework of its rules. But as the State Bank of India had not received any specific instructions from the Government, it could not help the collieries in any way. The Federation therefore sent the following express telegram to Sri Sethi requesting him to kindly make immediate arrangements for the issue of necessary directive to the State Bank of India in accordance with his statement made in the Rajya Sabha on 14 August 1969:

"MANY COLLIERIES IN JHARIA COALFIELD HAVING FINANCIAL ACCOMMODATION AGAINST BILLS AND OTHER SECURITIES WITH BANK OF BEHAR ARE FACING EXTREME HARDSHIP FOR FREEZING OF ACCOUNTS AND CONSEQUENT INABILITY TO MAKE LABOUR PAYMENT AND MEET FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS STOP INSPITE OF YOUR REASSURING STATEMENT IN RAJYA SABHA ON FOURTEENTH AUGUST THAT SUCH COLLIERIES SHOULD APPROACH STATE BANK WHICH WOULD ACCOMMODATE THEM WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF RULES STATE BANK CALCUTTA HAVING RE-



CEIVED NO SUCH DIRECTIVE HAS REGRETTED INABILITY TO DO ANYTHING STOP KINDLY ARRANGE FOR ISSUING NECESSARY DIRECTIVE TO STATE BANK CALCUTTA ACCORDING TO YOUR STATEMENT"

Subsequently, on 18 August 1969, a delegation of the Federation's representatives, consisting of Sri H. N. Mookherjee, Vice-Chairman, Sri M. C. Parekh, Sri B. M. Varma and the Secretary, Sri M. Das, met Sri S. K. Mukherjee, Joint Chief Officer, Department of Banking Operation & Development, Reserve Bank of India, Calcutta to urge the need for immediate steps being taken to give interim relief to the extreme hardship being experienced by a large number of collieries having accounts and financial arrangement with the Bank of Behar Ltd. In pursuance of the advice received from Sri Mukherjee, Mr. Mongia of State Bank of India, Calcutta Branch and Mr. A. M. Mariappan, Staff Officer, State Bank of India, Patna were contacted and a telegram was also sent to Mr. Mariappan for expediting interim financial arrangements by the State Bank of India. Thanks to the efforts made by the Federation, the State Bank of India allowed withdrawal of 50% of the deposits of the collieries if they were to be used for making payment of wages to workers.

Further, following up Sri S. K. Mukherjee's suggestion, the Federation advised member-collieries, having their registered office in Calcutta and having financial arrangements with the Bank of Behar Ltd. and experiencing difficulties owing to the freezing of their accounts, to approach the local head office of the State Bank of India for necessary credit facilities. Those member-collieries having registered offices in the State of Bihar were advised to approach the Staff Officer, State Bank of India, Patna for the purpose.

Although the period of moratorium was extended till 9 November 1969, the Bank of Behar Ltd. was merged with the State Bank of India on 6 November 1969 and the constituents are therefore not experiencing any difficulty in continuing normal business with the State Bank of India.

#### E. LEVY OF ROYALTY ON MINERALS CONSUMED WITHIN THE LEASEHOLD AREAS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.

It may be recalled that at the 15th meeting of the Mineral Advisory Board held at Ootacamund on the 24th and 25th September 1968 on the suggestion made by the Assam Government it was agreed in principle that royalty should be leviable on quantities of minerals consumed within the leasehold areas for commercial purposes and that the Central Government should amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 accordingly. The Federation received a letter No. 1(25)/68-MII dated 3 December 1968 from Sri A. Sethumadhavan, Under Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Department of Mines & Metals), in which he requested the Association/Federation to send their concrete suggestions on the proposal to levy royalty on quantities of minerals that are consumed within the leasehold areas for commercial purposes.

The Committee of the Federation considered the above suggestion and pointed out that under the proviso contained in section 9(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, royalty was payable only on the quantity of mineral removed from the leasehold area and not on mineral consumed within the leasehold area, the entire

quantity of which was for collieries own consumption and for supply of free fuel to the colliery workmen as enjoined under the various Tribunal Awards. The proposed amendment would therefore give rise to many problems as a result of conflicting interpretations of the expression "commercial purposes". The Committee further pointed out that coal or any other commodity when used for commercial purposes would invariably attract the payment of the State Sales Tax Act. But no sales tax was payable either on coal used for collieries' own consumption i.e. boiler consumption, which was essential for the running of collieries, and for coal supplied as free fuel to the workmen.

It was further pointed out that the expression "commercial purpose" as defined in the Chambers' Twentieth Century Dictionary was one which was essentially mercantile and as further elaborated in The Universal Dictionary of the English Language, edited by Henry Cecil Wyld (Sixth Impression, 1946), was one connected with 'commerce' which had again been defined as 'indicating buying and selling', 'trade', 'traffic', etc. In other words, a commercial transaction was one the motive of which was to make profit. Since coal consumed within the leasehold area was not generally used for a commercial purpose the proposed amendment would serve no useful purpose.

The Joint Working Committee, in its letter No. 36-B/70 dated 25 January 1969, made a representation to the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Department of Mines & Metals), New Delhi, on the lines of the suggestion made by the Federation strongly recommending that the existing rule should be maintained.

This subject came up for discussion at the 16th meeting of the Mineral Advisory Board held at New Delhi on 29 and 30 September 1969. In the note circulated by the Ministry at the meeting on the definition of 'commercial purposes' for charging royalty on minerals consumed within the leasehold area, it was stated that for coal used for boiler consumption to generate steam to operate machinery required for mining purposes such as steam winders, electrical generating plant, etc. royalty should also be charged and the explanation given in the note was that such consumed coal should also come within the purview of the definition of 'commercial purposes'. As no conclusive decision on the question was taken at the meeting, Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman, wrote a D.O. letter to Sri Jagannath Rao, Minister of State for Mines & Metals, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, pointing out in particular that apart from the question of the legality of imposing royalty on coal used for boiler consumption, this retrogressive proposal would lead to various complications and constant bickerings between the management of the collieries and the State Government Authorities in view of the fact that it was not possible to accurately assess of the quantum of coal used in the boilers of collieries within the leasehold areas. It was further pointed out in the D.O. letter that rejected coals were mostly used for boiler consumption in collieries and whatever the royalty that was charged on such coals would impose an additional burden on collieries and inflate the cost of production. It was also mentioned that royalty was being charged from time immemorial on the F.O.R. price of coal and for more than 100 years no royalty was ever charged on coal used in boiler to operate machinery.

The matter is still under the consideration of the Government.

#### F. TELEX FACILITIES IN DHANBAD AND ASANSOL AREAS.

The lack of telex facilities in the Bengal-Bihar coalfields, which are an integral part of the industrial belt stretching



from Bokaro in Bihar to Durgapur in Bengal, is a great handicap to all industries in the area.

In the Asansol field about 20 million tonnes of coal are raised from 134 mines. Besides, there are two steel plants and a number of other industries in the private and public sectors. According to my Committee's assessment at least 30/50 undertakings in the Asansol area would be interested in installing telex equipment.

The output of coal in the Dhanbad area is about 28 million tonnes including metallurgical coal which is produced nowhere else in the country. Besides the coal mines which number over 250, many other industries are located in the area, such as, the Sindri Fertilizers, coal washeries in the public and private sectors, the National Coal Development Corporation's projects and others. If telex equipment is made available in this area, there would be a demand for at least 50.

The Federation therefore made a representation, in its letter No. 56/348 dated 7 March 1969, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Communications, strongly urging that telex facilities be made available at the earliest possible date to collieries and other industries in the Bokaro Durgapur belt which is one of the most important industrial regions in the entire country.

Subsequently, on the advice received from the above Ministry, a similar representation was made to the Directorate General, Posts & Telegraphs, New Delhi, in reply to which a letter, No. 142-7/69-TPL, dated 7 May 1969, was



received from Sri B. M. Khanna, Asstt. Chief Engineer (TL) of Posts and Telegraphs, to the effect that the need for opening of new exchanges was under constant review of the Department and the proposals for the opening of telex exchanges at Dhanbad and Asansol would be taken up for consideration in the near future.

The matter is being followed up by the Federation.

**G. FIRE ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF JOTIMATOOK BRANCH (NEW ALIGNMENT) & ALSO IN LOWER AND UPPER JHARIA COLLIERY.**

A circular letter dated 2 July 1969 was received by all the collieries served by Jotimatook siding to the effect that fire on the eastern side of the alignment had been extending towards the branch line and collapses had taken place quite near the line. It was also stated that cracks had appeared between collapses and the branch line, the nearest crack on 11.6.69 being only 22 ft. from the track. The extent of workings under the railway or adjacent to the railway line had not been fully ascertained. It was apprehended that the fire might render the branch line unsafe for working. It was further stated that if the fire could endanger the safety of the track it would become necessary for the railway to suspend or close the Jotimatook Assisted Siding till such time as the danger was removed and the track rendered safe for traffic. A number of telegrams was sent to the Ministry of Railways and others drawing their attention to the extremely serious situation arising out of the underground fire near Jotimatook Assisted Siding serving 10 collieries and Aluminium Corporation of India, producing 1,60,000 tonnes of coal per month. It was further pointed out that the Jotimatook

siding being one of the very old sidings was in similar danger in 1952 owing to fire in New Jemehari Khas Colliery. On a strong representation then made by the collieries concerned this siding was diverted through a near area on the same colliery. The Coal Board had earlier taken up some protective work to arrest the spread of the fire to the adjacent areas. Although the fire was not completely arrested, no effective steps were taken by the Coal Board after 1966 to arrest the spread of the fire. It may be mentioned that at a joint meeting held on 14 June 1967 with the representatives of the collieries, Coal Board and the office of the Chief Mining Adviser, Railway Board, steps were suggested to deal with the fire but neither the Coal Board nor the Railways did anything in the matter.

On a representation made by the Industry the Coal Board deputed its Chief Mining Engineer and Inspecting Officer to undertake protective stabilization work to arrest further spread of fire towards the Railway lines. As the Coal Board engaged contractors for this purpose from 12 July 1969, it was not necessary for the Railway to suspend or close the Jotimatook Siding.

Although the Coal Board had done commendable work for protective stabilization to avoid the imminent danger caused by the expansion of fire the Committee of the Federation emphasized the fact that the work already undertaken appeared to be inadequate. Only 30/32 persons were engaged by the contractors and 10,000 cft. work were sanctioned against the actual requirement of 30 lakh cft. The Mining Engineers of the collieries who had examined the impending danger of the Jotimatook Siding considered that the situation was not at all being dealt with as systematically and seriously as was necessary to arrest the fire and it was feared that if the work continued to be carried on at a slow pace,

the Railways would have no alternative to closing the traffic. The Federation pointed out that the following work needed immediate attention:—

- (1) Filling up of Pot Holes and cracks by sand. Total work—33½ CMT.
- (2) Blanketting with sand between 1.83 & 200 M. on siding length and east of the line.
- (3) Flushing of sand and water under pressure through bore holes to the underground workings 4" × 20 bore holes depth 6 to 24 Mts.
- (4) To drown the workings by diverting the jore near the boundary of the Collicries.

In view of the fact that only the work specified in item No. 1 had been undertaken by the Coal Board and that too with the help of matti packing and that the grant was meagre, Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman, in a letter No. 275/1109 dated 25 July 1969, addressed to Sri K. K. Ray, I.A.S., Chairman, Coal Board, suggested measures under items No. 2, 3, & 4 above to be undertaken immediately in order to save the situation. It was further suggested by the Federation's Chairman in the above letter that the number of persons engaged on such a pressing job had to be considerably increased and that more than one contractor should be engaged to complete the job. Sri V. K. Poddar further suggested that active assistance of the collieries served by this siding should be sought in order to facilitate smooth working.

The following letter No. PF-34/64-65/Pt. III dated 4/5 August 1969 was received from the Coal Board:—

"I am directed to refer to your letter No. 275/1109 dated July 25, 1969 on the subject mentioned above. The Board has already sanctioned a sum of Rs. 28,840/- for filling up the subsidences and cracks which have occurred within 150 ft. of the siding line and presently the work is going on at full speed, for which we appreciate the help and co-operation extended by Shri R. L. Worah. A further scheme costing about Rs. 70,000/- which would include—

- “(a) building up a dam and a sluice gate for diverting rain water into underground workings,
- “(b) flushing of sand into underground galleries through bore holes and,
- “(c) surface blanketing with sand is under the active and urgent consideration of the Board and preliminary work on some of these items have already been initiated.

"It is our considered view that the safety of the siding cannot be restored on a permanent basis and sooner or later it has to be abandoned and to that extent we have already taken up with the Railways the question of finding an alternative alignment for the siding. It would be appreciated if you also pursue this matter vigorously with the Railways so that a new alignment for the siding can fructify as early as possible."

Mention may also be made in this connexion of the damaging fire which broke out in September 1969 in the top seams of Lower & Upper Jharia Colliery. The fire was so intense that it could be seen from a long distance and that nothing could be done in the initial stage even by the teams sent by the Mines Inspectorate to put out the fire. The



extent of the damage caused by such underground fire can easily be realized that about Rs. 16 lakhs might be required to tackle the fire. Urgent measures were however taken to tackle the fire by the Director General of Mines Safety and also by the Coal Board by diverting the water from the stream of the mine in the colliery area in which the fire was raging. It was alleged by Sri A. L. Sinha, Joint Director of Mines Safety that the fire might have been caused during illicit distillation of liquor inside the mine. The fire was raging at a distance of about 200' ft. from the mouth of the colliery and the heat was so intense that no one was able to go near the fire.

It is an admitted fact that underground fires in coal mines have been caused as a result of spontaneous combustion occurring either underground or on the surface, defective depillaring operations, acts of negligence and adoption of unscientific methods of working and illicit distillation underground in abandoned mines.

According to the estimate recently made by the Coal Board about 22 million tonnes of extractable coal have been lost in major fires. In view of the fact that fire not only results in the waste of coal but also causes extensive damage to surface structures, it is high time that a comprehensive plan was formulated and permanent remedial measures were taken in hand to fight out such fires. It is however, heartening to note that a Committee was constituted as long ago as in the year 1963 with the representatives of the Coal Board, Central Mining Research Station, Indian School of Mines, Indian Bureau of Mines, Director General of Mines Safety and the Planning Commission, to examine the problem of coal mine fires and to suggest measures to prevent occurrence



of fires in future. It is understood that the above Committee set up by the Planning Commission has recently submitted a report to the Government of India. It is hoped that the Government would take effective steps to implement the valued recommendations of the above Committee and not put them like other reports in cold storage.

#### H. FREQUENT FAILURE OF POWER SUPPLY IN THE COALFIELD.

Collieries operating both in the Raniganj and Jharia fields suffer from frequent failure of power supplied by the West Bengal State Electricity Board as well as the Bihar State Electricity Board. Although complaints have been made from time to time there has been little improvement. If things go on like this, coal production will suffer considerably. Naturally, there is widespread dissatisfaction with the Bihar as well as the West Bengal State Electricity Boards, while the consumers drawing their supplies from Sijua (Jheriah) Electric Supply Co. Ltd., and Associated Power Co. Ltd., and Dissergarh Power Supply Co. have practically no complaints. Although representations have been made from time to time by the Federation to the State Electricity Boards, no effective steps have been taken to ensure regular supply of power to the consumers a large number of whom are collieries which are bound to suffer a loss of output when there is frequent failure of power.

It is stated that the interruptions of power supply which are very common normally occur due to storms and lightning which are frequent in rainy season. The theft of line conductors specially copper by miscreants has also become a regular feature everywhere and this is applicable in the area of operation also. In the event of failure of power supply

all possible endeavours to restore the supply via alternative circuits as quickly as is humanly possible should be made and any delay in this regard would seriously affect the normal working of the collieries and result in accidents which might even lead to loss of lives. The Boards as well as the private electric supply companies should introduce regular line patrolling during the nights to prevent theft of line conductors and the police should be asked to be vigilant in all cases of thefts.

#### I. NON-COKING COAL PRICES FOR INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS OTHER THAN THE RAILWAYS.

At its meeting held on 23 May 1969, the Joint Working Committee considered the request of constituent members to revise prices in view of the numerous impositions made on the Industry since the last revision of prices which had increased the cost of production of coal.

After careful consideration the Joint Working Committee recommended that the following prices be introduced with effect from 1 July 1969 in respect of *non-metallurgical industrial consumers*:—

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Steam/Rubble</i>	<i>R.O.M./Slack/Dust</i>
Selected 'A'	43.50	42.50
Selected 'B'	40.00	39.00
Grade I	36.50	35.50
Grade II	34.00	33.00
Grade IIIA	32.50	31.50
Grade IIIB	31.00	30.00

(All prices are per tonne F.O.R. Colliery and, in all cases, Sales Tax and other levies are extra).

The above prices were to be applicable to non coking coals from the Bengal and Bihar coalfields with effect from 1 July 1969.

The enhanced prices were necessitated due to the following reasons:—

- (i) Increased payments to workers in terms of the Wage Board recommendations.
- (ii) Increased costs of materials used by collieries such as explosives, iron and steel, cement, lubricants, wire ropes, etc.
- (iii) The increased electricity tariffs charged by the State Electricity Boards.
- (iv) Increased road cesses levied by State Governments.
- (v) Provision of footwear to colliery workers in terms of the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957.
- (vi) Increased royalty charges.

Constituents of the J.W.C. were requested to advise their customers of the revised prices and tell them that the revision had been necessitated because of the factors mentioned above, which were beyond the control of Coal producers.

Subsequent to the decision of the Railway Board to allow only a price increase of 70 paise per tonne for all grades of coal supplied to the Railways, a number of representations were received by the Joint Working Committee from the various industrial consumers for re-consideration of the above decision of the J.W.C. to effect a price increase of about Rs. 3/- per tonne from 1 July 1969.

At a meeting of the J.W.C. held subsequently the J.W.C. was of the view that after the decontrol of the Coal Industry prices of various grades of coal were by and large settled by the forces of supply and demand and the J.W.C. prices announced on the Industry were more or less a guideline to be followed by the members as far as practicable. The J.W.C. therefore considered that no revision of prices was called for.

The matter was re-considered at a special meeting of the J.W.C. held on 6 October 1969 and after considerable discussion, it was decided not to revise or reduce the J.W.C. prices for industrial consumers on various considerations.

#### J. THEFT OF COAL FROM RAILWAY WAGONS.

The theft of coal from Railway wagons has recently increased so much as to cause serious concern in all parts of Raniganj coalfield areas. In spite of repeated complaints made by large number of collieries as well as by this Federation, the authorities have utterly failed to tackle the situation which has of late turned from bad to worse. The following extract from the minutes of an emergent joint meeting of the I.M.F. Raniganj Branch Executive and Raniganj Coalfield Committee, held at Sunkerpore Colliery Director's Bungalow on 27 May 1969, gives a vivid account of the situation in this regard in different parts of this coalfield:

*"(A) Sonachora area—between Ondal and Parasea.*

A large number of persons await in the jungle generally at night till the arrival of a loaded rake. The rake, when moving up a steep incline, slows down and the miscreants

climb on to the loaded wagons and pilfer the coal. By the time the rake passes the G. T. Road 5 to 10 tonnes of coal are lifted from each wagon. The activities of the miscreants were brought to the notice of A.S.P., who in turn reported the case to the Security Officer (Mr. Duncan) at Asansol. He told our representative 6/7 days ago that he would try to ambush them provided a Platoon of Police force was available. Such pilferages are going on in Chara Pilot No. 1 & 2. It is reported by our member (Sri R. Goenka) that Mr. Banerjee—Special Officer, Railway Police, Ondal has been directed by the authority of Union Government to take immediate action in the matter. Members were requested to report the pilfering of coal cases to Mr. Banerjee, with a copy to Sri Rajen Goenka, Parasia Colliery, P.O. Kajoram, Dist. Burdwan. Copies of the complaints should also be sent to—(A) Chairman, Railway Board, (B) General Manager, Eastern Railway, (C) C.O.P.S., Calcutta, (D) Security Officer, Railway Police Force, Asansol and the Chairman, Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta and also to the President, I.M.F. Raniganj Branch Executive, P.O. Ukhra, Dist. Burdwan.

(B) *Pandaveswar Pilot No. I*: Sri M. L. Martoo reported that coal was also being pilfered near South Samila while Pandaveswar Pilot No. I passed the point.

*"Topsi Pilot Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4*: It was reported that pilferages of coal are also going on between East Baraboni and Baraboni Station of the above loaded pilot.

*"Ukhra Pilot No. I & II*: Pilferages take place between Parascote and Kajoram area. It was stopped a few months back but it has again started.



"It was suggested that for each different Pilot Section one of our members, should take the trouble to work as a liaison officer with the Special Officer, Railway Police Force, Ondal and report the incidents of pilfering of coal from wagons as and when they occur. The following names were decided on for this purpose:

1. Sri R. Goenka—for Chara I & II Pilots.
2. Sri J. N. Gupta of Khas Kajora Colliery for Ukhra I & II Pilots (Mr. P. Mondal agreed to pursue him).
3. Sri Sujit Nag for Topsis I, II, III and IV Pilots.
4. Sri M. L. Mattoo, Agent, Pure Samla Colliery for Pandaveswar No. I Pilot.
5. Sri R. K. Kapoor of Jaipuria Samla Amalgamated Colliery for Pandaveswar No. II Pilot.

"Railway authority should be approached to provide armed guards with each drawing pilot for a certain period to stop the attempt of pilfering of coal."

It will be observed that the Security Officer Mr. Duncan, at Asansol expects to be able to ambush the miscreants if he is provided with adequate police forces. The Committee of the Federation considers that the situation is so grave that it calls for concerted action by all concerned without any further loss of time to fight out this social menace and to put a stop to the further loss of colliery properties in custody of the Railways. It is inconceivable how the miscreants could over-power the Government forces and carried on their coal-lifting activities so successfully and continuously. The

Federation made a representation to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Traffic & Railways, West Bengal, 9/1, Hungerford Street, Calcutta-17, in its letter No. 598/865 dated 6 June 1969, urging him to kindly take up the matter personally and take such steps as might be deemed expedient to bring the culprits to book and to put a stop once and for all to the pilferage of coal from loaded wagons in Rani-ganj Coalfield areas. The Committee further requested him to provide adequate armed guards with each drawing pilot with immediate effect till such time as it might be deemed necessary. Sri S. C. De Chowdhury, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Traffic & Railways, West Bengal, in his letter No. 2969/DIG(T & R)/CR. 38-67 dated 9.6.69, stated that the letter had been forwarded to the Superintendent of Police, Government Railway Police, Howrah, for necessary action. It is also reported by The Khas Kenda Colliery Private Ltd., Lower Kenda Colliery, that every day when the loaded wagons are drawn in the morning by Chara No. 1 Pilot, these are detained at a place called "Sonachora" where about 200/250 miscreants regularly unload a portion of the coal from each wagon and even the covered wagons are broken open and coal unloaded. They suspect that some of the Railway staff deliberately detain the wagons in the same place every day on the ground of operational difficulties, which of course cannot be a regular feature. As a result of this theft of coal from loaded wagons prior to their weighment collieries have to suffer heavy loss on account of under charge apart from the price of coal lost.

It is also reported by Messrs. East Baraboni Coal Co. Private Ltd., East Baraboni Colliery, that pilferage of coal from wagons loaded with steam coal in between East Baraboni Colliery and Baraboni Station has become almost a daily affair. Toposi 1, 2, 3 & 4 pilots pass through the above place and a large number of collieries served by the above

Pilots have been suffering heavy losses owing to theft of coal from the loaded wagons.

Further representations were made by the Federation, in its letters, No. 598/1670 dated 5 December 1969 and No. 598/2 dated 2 January 1970, addressed to the Superintendent of Police, Government Railway Police, Howrah. It was stated in the contents of the letters that some member-collieries, particularly (1) Pure Samla Colliery, (2) Pansuli Nutandanga Colliery, and (3) Samla Manderboni Colliery, had reported that between 1 November and 25 November 1969 pilferage of coal from loaded wagons increased to the extent of 5.6 metric tonnes from any single wagon resulting in heavy loss to the collieries concerned. Coal was being lifted mainly at points near about South Samla, Pandaveswar Station and Ukhra Station besides other places. Pandaveswar I Pilot passed through the above places and a large number of collieries served by the above pilot had to suffer heavy losses owing to theft of coal from the loaded wagons.

The Federation emphasized that what was actually taking place was looting of coal by armed gangs as would be evident from the incidents which happened on 5 and 22 December 1969. In the first case, an entire rake of 21 box wagons and 3 four-wheeler wagons loaded with steam coal had to stop owing to non-clearance near Bankola crossing from about 6 p.m. to 7-30 p.m. on its way to the Ondal Yard from the Khas Badjna Colliery siding. This was an opportunity for a large gang, armed with lathis and spears, to lift coal from the wagons, the total booty amounting to over 20 tonnes from two box wagons.

The Railway personnel looked on helplessly and the guard deputed by the colliery was not even allowed to move from the wagons.

In another incident of the same kind, a large amount of coal was unloaded from a rake of 17 box wagons from the same colliery in the Pandaveswar Railway Yard on the 22 December 1969. But, fortunately, the colliery recovered the coal on receipt of timely information. This free-booting was carried on as an organized business for the benefit, it had been reported, of some coal depots near Ukhra and Bhimgarh stations.

Replying to the representatives, the Superintendent of Police, Government Railway Police, Howrah, has informed the Federation that 13 persons were arrested from Barabani Railway Station and were prosecuted u/s 4(1) B.C.I.A. Act. O/C Andal G.R.P.S. has been instructed to keep watch over the matter. He has further informed the Federation that consignments loaded in wagons are regarded as Railway property and they are guarded and protected by the Railway Protection Force. The Security Officer of the Railway Protection Force has recently been requested to provide escorts in goods trains as far as possible.

#### K. MEETING WITH THE CHAIRMAN, COAL BOARD

A meeting was held with the Chairman, Coal Board on 30 October 1969 to discuss various matters, such as, the position of collieries linked to the Coal Board's ropeways and the present position regarding the recommendations of the Ganguli Committee's report. It may be mentioned that the Government of India, Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals (Department of Mines & Metals), in its letters, No. C5-13(9)/68-I dated 20 September and No. C5-13(9)/68-II dated 20 September 1969 revised the scales of assistance for grant of subsidy by the Coal Board to collieries specially handicapped



by adverse factors and also of stowing assistance presumably on the basis of Ganguli Committee's report. The Committee of the Federation suggested the following steps for discussion at the above meeting with the Chairman, Coal Board:

#### 1. POSITION OF COLLIERIES LINKED TO THE COAL BOARD'S ROPEWAYS

During the financial year 1969-70 commencing from 1 April 1969 the Board has linked certain additional collieries in Raniganj and Jharia coalfields to the Board's Ropeways Dump for supply of sand to collieries for the purpose of stowing. These collieries were drawing sand from river bed during the previous financial year, i.e. 1968-69. In such cases, the Board has given a blanket permit of 15 days grace period to the collieries for the purpose of adjustment from river bed sand supplies to Board's Dump. Three main difficulties would arise on account of the above changeover:—

- (i) Collieries which were drawing sand from river bed during 1968-69 had stocks built up from supplies drawn from river bed upto 31.3.1969. These stocks should be certified immediately and collieries be permitted to utilise these stocks as early as possible, if sources of supply of sand in these collieries have been changed from river bed to Board's Dump. Large financial outlay is involved in such stocks and the same cannot be held on indefinitely, as collieries cannot finance such stocks when they have already been assured supply from Board's Dump.

- (ii) In some cases, although the Board has given sanction for drawing sand from Board's Dump, on



account of the fact that allocation from Board's Dump being given at a date after more than 15 days as specified by the Board, the collieries involved in such cases had no alternative but to continue to draw sand from river bed. In such cases, when the delay of allocation has taken place on account of Board's Dump not being ready to give sand, the sanctions on such collieries should be amended at river bed rates upto the date the Board allocated sand from Dump. As such, in such cases General grace period of 15 days would not be fair.

- (iii) Whilst linking additional collieries to the Dump during the current Financial year, i.e. 1969-70, it has been found that linkage has been done more than the actual capacity of the ropeways with the result that the collieries linked to the Dump are not able to get adequate supply of sand from Board's Dump. This should be examined carefully and if the above contention is correct collieries which are drawing sand from alternate sources, like river bed, etc. should be given amended sanction from start of the current financial year, i.e. 1969-70.

## 2. GANGULY COMMITTEE REPORT:

It may be recalled that when the sand supplies from Board's Dump were first started about four years ago, the Board fixed an ad hoc rate of 0.50 paise per tonne per kilometre for payment of assistance on account of transportation charges to the collieries drawing sand from Board's Dump. At that time it was said that rate should be revised retrospectively as soon as final recommendations of Ganguly Com-

mittee on revised rates for transportation from Board's Dump would be accepted by the Government.

It may be pointed out that the Ganguly Committee's Report was based on the data available about two years ago and since then the cost of transportation had considerably shot up owing to soaring prices of tyres, tubes, lubricant, petrol, diesel, labour wages, etc., the impact of which on the cost of production should also be considered by the Coal Board.

It may be recalled that an assurance was given by the then Ministry of Mines and Metals that the Industry would be given an opportunity to discuss and consider the recommendations of the Ganguly Committee before they were accepted by the Government and applied to the Industry.

It may also be pointed out that inordinate delay is being caused in obtaining payment of assistance from the Coal Board and the Chairman, Coal Board, should be requested at the proposed meeting with him for arranging payment for August and September stowing bills and final March 1969 bills as early as possible. It may also be pointed out that claims for adverse factors for gassiness of mine etc. for the quarter ending 31 March 1969 and 30 June 1969 have not yet been paid. Immediate steps should be taken so that collieries' bills upto June 1969 for adverse factors may be paid immediately.

A resume of the salient points discussed at the above meeting held between the Chairman, Coal Board, and the representatives of the Industry is given below:

## PAYMENT BY THE COAL BOARD:

The Industry's representatives appealed for expeditious payment of dues by the Coal Board. Particular reference was made to payment of subsidies for gassiness. It was reported that the matter had been discussed with the Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals who had advised that re-allocation was within the powers of the Board and that this would meet the immediate problem. It had been pointed out to the Ministry that re-allocation of funds from one head to another would not meet the problem which was inadequate overall allocation of funds to meet Coal Board's dues. The Chairman, Coal Board, said that the possibility of re-allocation of funds from the sea coal subsidy and from the road transport subsidy funds was under consideration. He agreed however that the main problem was the inadequate overall allocation of funds.

It was also pointed out that the Board received inadequate funds because the Railway Board did not pay to the Board the entire cess collected, and when pressed for payment they maintained that records were not available. On behalf of the Industry it was pointed out that the Railway Board were able to produce records as far back as 1952 when they wished to recover some dues from the Industry and it could not be accepted that the Railway Board could not produce records. Furthermore, the coal Board had a record of despatches and should be able to assess the actual amount due. The Chairman, Coal Board, agreed that the Board could assess the amount due and requested an investigation into this aspect, so that the matter could be referred again to the Railway Board. He also requested an investigation as to the amount at credit of the road transport subsidy fund and the surrenders to Government of unutilised funds made at the end of the previous years. He pointed out that sur-

renders made in previous years should now be able to be utilised when they were required.

#### ADVANCE PAYMENT:

It was pointed out that the scheme for making 80% advance payments against dues was not working properly and bills were in arrears. The object of the subsidy scheme was to assist collieries but this was defeated by reason of the six to nine months delay in making payments. The 80% advance payment scheme had been introduced when Sardar Swaran Singh was the Minister but the collieries were still out of pocket. The Industry's representatives appealed to the Board to do whatever was possible to expedite payments.

#### NEWS ITEM ON COAL PRICES:

Reference as made to the following news item on Coal Prices which appeared in the Statesman on the 1st October, 1969:

##### *"Coal Price increase Creates Problems:*

The agreement by the Railways to a price increase of Rs. 0.70 per tonne of coal has created a curious situation in regard to the Government's responsibility in maintaining the price line, according to a spokesman of the Coal Board. At a time when Government is thinking in terms of a wage and profit freeze to curb the upward trend in prices, it is contradictory to allow a price increase which may have considerable repercussions on the industrial and domestic fuel factors in addition to inflating the Railway's own coal by about Rs. 1.15 crores annually. Such an increase has to be sooner or later balanced by raising railway fares and freight once again, the spokesman says.



The Railways consume about 16.4 million tonnes of non-coking coal per year. Once they have agreed to a price rise, the Collieries will not hesitate to increase the price of coal for industrial and domestic users, the spokesman says."

The Chairman, Coal Board, said that the matter had been investigated and there was no record of any Board official having issued the press report. A denial had been issued but the damage had already been done. The Industry's representatives particularly requested that press reports should not be issued without the authority of a senior official of the Board.

#### REFUND OF EXCISE DUTY:

The Chairman, Coal Board, reported that Rs. 30 lacs had been refunded by way of excise duty since the previous meeting on the 18th July 1969. As regards payment prior to 1964 however the Railways maintained that they did not have the records to enable refund being made. On behalf of the Industry it was suggested that excise duty should not be levied to the extent that the dues were outstanding. The Chairman, Coal Board, stated that this would not be possible as action of this kind would assume that the refunds were due and this had not been established because of the absence of records. Furthermore, the revenue had to be collected even although it was due. The Board had recommended in 1966 that certification by the Railways should be done away with but no decision had been taken. He said that the matter would be taken up again with the authorities. He pointed out that it was possible for the Coal Board to check the amount of duty paid from its own records without certification by the Railways.



# POSITION OF COLLIERIES LINKED TO THE COAL BOARD ROPEWAYS:

It was pointed out that collieries were experiencing difficulties because of inconsistent supplies of sand from the Coal Board dump. The Board's ropeways sometimes did not function and collieries sand requirements varied from month to months. In such cases the colliery had to obtain sand from other sources, otherwise it was compelled to cut down or close production. It was recalled that the procedure to be adopted on the failure of the ropeways had been the subject of discussions in the past. Collieries still had to await the sanction of the Board before they could obtain sand with the assurance that the cost thereof would be admitted for subsidy purposes. This was unsatisfactory because production was continuous and sand had to be provided continually. It was suggested that the Chief Mining Engineer, Coal Board, should visit the collieries affected to ascertain the particular practical difficulties being experienced by the collieries affected. It was pointed out that abuses had been discovered, but the position would be investigated with a view to preventing hardship in genuine cases.

On behalf of the Industry it was pointed out that the Board had given a blanket permission of 15 days grace period to collieries for the purpose of adjusting supplies from the river bed to the supplies from the Board's dump. As however allocation from the Board's dump was being given at a date more than 15 days after the date specified by the Board, collieries had no alternative but to continue to draw sand from the river bed. It was suggested that in such cases when the delay in allocation had taken place because the Board's dump was not ready to supply sand, the sanction on such collieries should be allowed at river bed rates upto the date of Board's allocation of sand from the dump. In such cases a general

grace period of 15 days would not be sufficient. The Chief Mining Engineer, Coal Board, suggested that it might be possible to allow grace period of 30 days and the matter would be examined. Collieries having pending applications for assistance in this regard should advise the Board so that the matter could be investigated.

It was also pointed out that the stocks of sand should be supplied immediately and that collieries should be permitted to utilize these stocks if sources of supply had been changed from the river bed to the Board's dump. If the stocks were certified it would be possible for the Board to ensure that payments of subsidy were made only in respect of the sand permitted to be taken from these stocks. It was agreed that this matter would be considered by the Board.

On behalf of the Industry it was also submitted that in order to mitigate the problems which arose from breakdowns of the ropeways, the Coal Board should permit collieries to take from alternative specified sources certain fixed percentage of the total sand sanctioned for a full year. The colliery would then be free to obtain sand whenever a breakdown occurred provided the specified amount was not exceeded, except with the special permission of the Board. It was emphasized that a continuous supply of sand was essential. The Chief Mining Engineer expressed the view that a blanket permission of this kind could not be permitted but the position would be examined.

#### STOWING IN UNSANCTIONED AREAS:

On behalf of the Coal Board it was stated that where no additional financial commitment was involved, stowing in unsanctioned areas was being readily permitted. Where

however additional financial burden on the Board was involved, permission could not readily be given. On behalf of the Board it was pointed out that it should be possible for collieries to advise the Board a month in advance of the likelihood of stowing in unsanctioned areas where an additional commitment might be involved. On behalf of the Industry it was suggested that the Board should permit collieries to stow in unsanctioned areas upto a certain percentage of the total quantity sanctioned. The Board could satisfy itself later as to the genuineness of the need for stowing in unsanctioned areas. It was pointed out that stowing in unsanctioned areas contiguous to the sanctioned areas was frequently necessary for technical reasons. The Chief Mining Engineer agreed that where the areas so stowed were just in the vicinity of the sanctioned areas and where the total stowing did not exceed the sanctioned quantities not involving any additional commitments, subsidy in such cases will not be held up.

It was also pointed out that even where the total quantity had not been exceeded, payments had been held up because stowing had been carried out in an unsanctioned area. It was agreed that if details of instances of this kind were supplied, each case would be examined on its merits.

The Industry expressed appreciation of the fact that the Board had issued sanctions in good time this year.

#### MEETING OF THE BOARD:

It was suggested that consideration might be given to calling more than 12 meetings of the Coal Board in a year. It was pointed out that the permission of the Board was

very frequently required and monthly meetings meant that disposal of cases was held up. It was agreed that consideration could be given to holding meetings of the Board at intervals of three weeks. It was pointed out that consideration was being given to strengthening the Board.

#### GANGULI COMMITTEE: INADEQUATE RATES OF ASSISTANCE:

It was pointed out that the recommendations of the Ganguli Committee were based on cost figures calculated in 1966. On this basis, the Ganguli Committee had admitted that collieries were losing Rs. 2.82 per tonne on stowing. The Tariff Commission and the Coal Prices Revision Committee all agreed that collieries should be assisted but the rates applied with effect from the 1st January 1970 were totally unrealistic as they were based on figures for cost which were completely out of date. Since then the Wage Board recommendations had added very considerably to costs and cost of equipment and stores had also risen. In some cases there had even been a reduction in the rates of assistance on the ground that the system was being rationalised. The Chairman, Coal Board, said that the Industry would have to press this point with the Ministry pointing out that a review was necessary.

#### PUBLICATION OF THE GANGULI COMMITTEE REPORT:

It was recalled that at the end of June 1969 there had been a meeting when the then Joint Secretary to the Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals had given an assurance that the Ganguli Committee Report would be circulated for comments to its implementation. This however had not been done.



**SAND ROYALTY :**

The Industry expressed appreciation of the fact that royalty on sand would now be reimbursed in full.

**SUBSIDY FOR UNDERGROUND PIPELINE :**

Sri V. K. Poddar mentioned that several collieries' payments were being delayed where there was an underground pipeline for the supply of sand. It was agreed that the matter would be investigated.

**SUB-CEILINGS :**

Sri R. Lall referred to the new rates of assistance which had been circulated. These had presumably been based on the recommendations of the Ganguli Committee. It was however not clear from the covering letter whether the sub-ceilings had been done away with. On behalf of the Board it was stated that this matter would be examined immediately with a view to clarifying the position.

**PRESENCE OF MINE MANAGERS DURING INSPECTIONS :**

On behalf of the Industry it was stated that collieries had been advised that the Manager of the mine had to be present when measurements by the Board's Inspecting Officer was being carried out where there had been a dispute between the surveyor and the management as to the quantity of sand stowed. The relevant instruction of the Coal Board contained in letter No. 100/Misc/69-70 dated 22 September 1969 is reproduced for reference:



"I am directed to state that in a number of cases where the colliery surveyor had been in disagreement with the Coal Board surveyor relating to measurements, the said facts had been brought to the notice of the Board at such a late stage that no action for verifying the correct position was possible. To avoid recurrence of such a situation the procedure as laid down below may be followed:

- (i) Wherever a disagreement would occur between the Board's Surveyor and the Colliery Surveyor the said fact shall be recorded in both the field books of the Coal Board and the colliery and shall be jointly signed.
- (ii) The Manager of the colliery shall immediately inform the Inspecting Officer of the mine, if necessary by making a trip to the office of the Inspecting Officer, so as to ensure that the Inspecting Officer can visit the mine within the course of the following 48 hours.
- (iii) The place of disputed measurement shall not be disturbed until the place is visited by the Inspecting Officer.
- (iv) The Inspecting Officer and the colliery Manager shall again jointly measure the area in order to arrive at agreed measurement figures and if an agreement is reached the two field books should be signed jointly by the Board's Officer and the Manager of the mine.
- (v) In case the Manager of the colliery and the Inspecting Officer do not come to an agreement the matter

shall be forthwith brought to the notice of the Deputy Chief Mining Engineer, Coal Board, Asansol, who shall immediately thereafter visit the mine and the Coal Company's officers superior to the Manager shall accompany the Deputy Chief Mining Engineer for joint measurement.

- (vi) In case the site of measurement be disturbed by carrying out additional stowing otherwise, before the mine is visited by the Inspecting Officer or Deputy Chief Mining Engineer of the Board as the case may be, the Board will be constrained to accept the measurement taken by the Board's Surveyor as final and no cognisance of the disagreement can thereafter be taken."

It was pointed out that the Manager of the mine had very serious responsibilities and could not leave his duties at short notice. It was well-known that there could frequently be difference of opinion between technically qualified persons on these technical matters and it should be sufficient for the Under Manager responsible for the particular matter to assist the Inspecting Officer at the time of taking measurements. It was pointed out that there were not only Coal Board Inspecting Officers, but also inspecting officers of the Mines Directorate, the Labour enforcement department, the Boiler Inspecting department, the Provident Fund Inspectorate, and of the Police and it was not possible for the Manager of the mine to be in attendance when all these inspecting officers were present.

It was also pointed out that it should not be necessary for the Manager to make a trip to the office of the Inspecting

Officers and that it should be sufficient if the Inspecting Officers were advised by telephone or by a special letter. The Chief Mining Engineer, Coal Board, agreed that this would be sufficient.

Reference was also made to the instruction that the working place should be kept undisturbed pending the visit of the Inspecting Officer who would visit the mine within 48 hours. It was pointed out that stowing was a continuous process which could not be held up for measurement purposes. There had been cases where the Board's Inspecting Officer had expressed inability to take measurements because additional quantities of sand had been stowed. The Chief Mining Engineer agreed that it was not necessary to stop the entire stowing operation and that this could be continued provided it did not violently disturb the area, thereby affecting the possibility of taking agreed measurements.

It was stated that the Board's inspecting officers had reported adversely about their treatment by colliery managers. This was a matter where prestige of both parties had to be kept in balance. It was agreed that as far as possible bad feelings of this kind between the Inspectorate and the mine managements should be avoided but nevertheless it was simply not always possible for the colliery manager to comply with the request of an inspecting officer that he should be present personally to discuss matters.

The Industry's representatives thanked the Chairman, Coal Board, for the opportunity to discuss these issues with him.

# L. LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN THE RANIGANJ COALFIELD

Lawlessness, often enough erupting in violence, assumed such alarming proportions, particularly in the West Bengal coalfield, as to seriously hamper production in a large number of collieries. It is an admitted fact that inter-union rivalry, stemming from the conflicting aims and interests of political parties, rather than authentic industrial disputes, is primarily responsible for this state of affairs which seems to have become chronic in the West Bengal coalfield. In most of the affected collieries managers and supervisory staff have been living under a regular reign of terror. As stated by a trade union leader, "law and order has completely broken down in the coalfields. Asansol has become worse than the Chambal Valley."

Unless checked with a strong hand, continuing indiscipline among workers inevitably results in accidents in mines. It is therefore high time that effective and strong measures were taken to end this intolerable and highly explosive state of affairs.

The following statement compiled by the Federation regarding the particulars of incidents of lawlessness will go to show the extent of deterioration in the law and order situation in the Raniganj Coalfield during the year 1969.

## 1. Colliery: CHAPUI KHAS COLLIERY

of M/s. Sahu Minerals & Properties Ltd.  
Area: Raniganj-Asansol in Burdwan.  
No. of employees: 1100  
Production: Average 13,000 tonnes per month.

*Particulars of incidents*

- 8.3.69: R.C.C. Signboard of the Colliery at the bifurcation of the main road leading to the colliery through Chapui village was smashed to pieces by the village inhabitants. Police were informed, but no action was taken by them.
- 20.3.69: The Chief Executive of the Company was illegally detained and confined for about half-an-hour and was criminally intimidated. Police was informed, but in vain.
- 13.6.69: The Labour Welfare Officer and the Assistant Engineer of the Colliery while returning from Asansol at night were stoned by the Chapui villagers.
- 16.6.69: The Colliery Superintendent while passing through Chapui village in his jeep at about 8-30 P.M. was stopped and kept confined and manhandled by about 150 Chapui villagers for an hour. Dust was thrown over him and indecent abuses were hurled at him. Thereafter when he was allowed to go his jeep was stoned from behind. Complaint was lodged with the Raniganj Police Station and the District Authorities also approached.
- 18.6.69: At about 2-30 P.M. while two watchmen of the Colliery were passing through Chapui village, they were assaulted and locked up in a room by the Chapi villagers. A wrist watch was snatched away.



They were forced to sign a statement before their release. A village mob armed with lethal weapons also assaulted the watchman at the Colliery gate and stones were thrown at the residential quarters of the colliery. The mob also shot poisonous arrows at the colliery residential quarters.

- 28.6.69: A taxi carrying a family from the colliery to Asansol was detained unlawfully in Chapui village for sometime at about 10-30 A.M.

#### UNION RAVALRIES :

The Colliery Mazdoor Congress (SSP) has been enjoying the support of the colliery workmen and is recognized by the managent. The C.P.I.(M) has been trying to establish its union by means of intimidation and violence and frequent clashes have been occurring between rival groups of workers. At the instigation of the C.P.I.(M) Chapui villagers have turned violent, demanding employment for every unemployed person in the village, free street lighting and free water supply in the village. As a result, the colliery personnel have become panicky, and the colliery working has been completely disorganized causing severe loss of production to the colliery.

#### 2. NAG'S KAJORA JAMBAD COLLIERY

of M/s East Baraboni Coal Co. (P) Ltd.

- 21.2.69: A Mining Sirdar was assaulted underground and the workers resorted to an illegal strike from 21.2.69 to 27.2.69.
- 10.3.69: A hitch took place between the permanent wagon loaders and some outsiders and the loading clerk of colliery was wrongly implicated in the incident. The Colliery Manager was gheraoed from 4 P.M. to 12 P.M.
- 15.4.69: A section of workers went on illegal strike up to 16.4.69.
- 5.8.69: The Manager and the Asstt. Manager of the Colliery were put to wrongful confinement from 9.30 A.M. till 6 P.M. A wagon loader was murdered by a fellow worker.
- 7.8.69: The Manager and the Asstt. Manager were gheraoed and confined from 4 P.M. to 10 P.M.
- 2.9.69: The Manager and the colliery was gheraoed at 9.15 A.M. near the pit top and assaulted by a group of workmen causing serious injuries all over his body.

### 3. EAST BARABONI COLLIERY

- 16.4.69: Labourers gheraoed the Finance Manager, Manager and the Personnel Officer of the Colliery from 8 A.M. to 12.30 P.M.

- 6.5.69: The Personnel Officer was gheraoed in the sun at 12 noon for about an hour.
- 4.10.69: The Finance Manager of the colliery was gheraoed from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. by the workmen on the issue of bonus for the year 1968. The gherao was lifted at the intervention of the RLC and the Asst. Labour Commissioner (C), Asansol.

UNION RIVALRIES: Attempts are being made to oust the recognised Union and for the establishment of a new Union and troubles are being created frequently.

LOSS OF PRODUCTION: Production which was 11,050 tonnes in March 1969 has come down to 9,669 tonnes in June, 1969.

#### 4. JAIPURIA SAMILA AMALGAMATED COLLIERIES LTD., Pandaveswar (Burdwan).

- 27.9.68: Mr. B. S. Gupta, Chief Administrative Officer was gheraoed and assaulted.
- 23.6.69: Mr. M. B. Limaye, Manager, Jaipuria Kajora Colliery was gheraoed by workers of West Bengal Khani Mazdoor Sangha. The gherao was lifted at about 11.30 A.M.

5. RAMJIBANPUR COAL CO. PVT. LTD.  
Sitarampur (Burdwan).

Frequent demonstrations by the workers.

- 19.5.69: The entire staff was gheraoed from 8 A.M. to 6-30 P.M.
- 21.6.69: The Manager was assaulted once at 8-30 A.M. and again at 5-30 P.M. on the same day. Police were informed.

RESULT: Loss of production.

#### 6. SRI AMRITNAGAR SELECTED COLLIERY

Area—Under Raniganj Police Station.

Employees—1900

Average Monthly Production: 27,000 tonnes.

Recognized Union: Colliery Mazdoor Congress (Independent).

But since the beginning of 1969, Colliery Mazdoor Sabha (C.P.I.(M)) has established a rival union.

Inter-union rivalry: With establishment of above C.P.I.(M) Union trouble started and the lives of Sri

Sriram Goenka, owner, Sri Nandalal Keshan, Agent, Sri Ranadhir Biswas, Manager, and Sri Rampratap Singh, Hostel Superintendent of the colliery were threatened. On several occasions workers refused to obey the lawful orders of the management.

- 11.5.69: An attempt was made on the life of the manager while underground.
- 13.6.69: Workers of the C.P.I.(M) Union openly threatened severe assault on the manager and even attempt on his life besides putting fire to his car whenever possible.
- 14.6.69: Manager and the Agent were gheraoed at East Nimcha Colliery for 11 hrs. up to 10 P.M. and were abused and intimidated.
- 14.6.69: False dacoity case started by Raniganj Police on false diary by a worker.
- 16.6.69: Deputy Manager and Safety Officer were gheraoed for about eight hours in the scorching sun without any drinking water or bathroom facility.
- 22.9.69: A clash took place between followers of the CPI(M)-led union and CRO camp labour when one was killed and 61 were injured. The condition of three including the CRO camp commandant is said to be precarious. Thirty people have so far been arrested.



28.9.69: Mr. Phani Roy, Secretary of the Asansol unit of the Bangla Congress, sent a telegram to the Chief Minister drawing his attention to the deterioration in the law and order situation in the Asansol-Raniganj coal belt stating that a few hundred workers of East Nimcha Colliery had been squatting outside the A.D.M.'s residence demanding police protection from attacks by the group of CPI(M) workers.

SITUATION: Highly explosive. The owner, agent and manager of the mine have left the mine for reasons of personnel safety. Other technical and supervisory staff expressed a desire to leave the mine.

7. NORTH BROOK COLLIERY:  
Jaykaynagar (Burdwan)

10.6.69: The agent, manager and the Deputy Chief Personnel Officer of the colliery were gheraoed from 4-30 P.M. till 10-30 P.M. and were subjected to all sorts of abuse, insults and intimidation. Water was denied to them and attempts were made to disconnect the electric supply.

RESULT: Management feels it is impossible to run the mine.

8. PATMOHNA & BHARATCHAK COLLIERIES (P) LTD.

Sitarampur (Burdwan).

Owing inter-union rivalry a state bonding on absolute chaos, prevails.

LAST WEEK OF MAY 1969: Mr. J. D. Thacker, Supervisor, was gheraoed outside colliery precincts and was made to stand in the scorching sun for about seven hours.

- 8.6.69: A CPI worker was assaulted by CPM supporters from neighbouring villages.
- 20.6.69: CPI led workers observed a day's token strike against goondaism by CPI-M supporters.
- 7.10.69: Pre-dawn attack on miners sleeping in their quarters by 100 men with bombs, spears and fire arms wherein 7 persons were injured, 2 seriously. No arrest was made.

#### 9. BURRA DHEMO COLLIERY

- 1.6.69: The local agent Sri T. M. Thacker was gheraoed from 11-30 A.M. till 9 P.M. and was denied drinking water. Doors and windows of the room were closed and electricity was cut off and he was forced to stand in the room for about 4 hours. His life was threatened. He was forced to sign an agreement dictated by the workers.

#### 10. ADJAI II COLLIERY

- 1.4.69: The manager and the deputy superintendent were gheraoed at 8 A.M. and made to stand the sun till

3 P.M. In spite of a search warrant being issued by the S.D.O., the Police did not rescue the officers.

17.6.69: Manager and Welfare Officer were gheraoed by 50 workers and outsiders carrying bombs, bhallas, bows and arrows etc under CPI(M) leadership. They lit ovens outside the office and put chillies and sulphur into them. This is the 3rd Gherao (1st April, 14th May).

#### 11. SANCTORIA COLLIERY

18.3.69: The manager and the Welfare Officer were gheraoed for 12-15 P.M. to 5 P.M.

23.4.69: A large number of boys from neighbouring villages came to the gate of Superintendent's (Personnel) office demanding employment etc. This evening they came to his bungalow, demanding employment, water, land, etc.

#### 12. DHEMO MAIN COLLIERY

23.3.69: Five workmen went on a hunger strike.

3.4.69: When the Colliery Manager and the Asstt. Manager appeared before the Session Judge on a false charge

of murder they were gheraoed in the Court by about 60 colliery workers till late in that night.

### 13. EAST DAMAGORIA COLLIERY

- 6.3.69: The Manager and the Chief Personnel Officer of the colliery were assaulted and were kept in wrongful confinement for 6 hours.

### 14. EQUITABLE COAL CO.

- 11.3.69: Labour Officer and the Group Accountant were gheraoed at Jamuria A.B. Pit for 27 hours.

### 15. PURE SAMLA COLLIERY

- 25.3.69: The Agent and the Manager were gheraoed from 8 A.M. to 3 P.M.

### 16. THE NEW DAMAGORIA COAL CO. (P) LTD. Salanpur (Burdwan).

- 19.5.69: The Manager of the Colliery was gheraoed and denied drinking water. Electric connection was cut off.

### 17. GOENKA KAJORIA COLLIERY

- 13.5.69: Ram Piyare Singh, a watchman of the Company, was attacked by a large number of people in the colliery premises and killed.

## 18. MANOHARBAHAL COLLIERY.

- 14.6.69: Owing to the gross indiscipline and misbehaviour and disobedience on the part of the workers and sabotage by the workmen the colliery was closed throwing about 400 workers out of employment.

## 19. EAST NIMCHA COLLIERY

- 31.8.69: The Manager and the Agent of the colliery were gheraoed for about 13 hours.
- 23.10.69: About 100 workers, allegedly dismissed from service at the behest of CPI(M) staged a 'dharna' for 30 hours before the owners' bungalow.

## 20. SRIPUR GROUP OF COLLIERIES

- 30.8.69: Five Officers were kept under confinement for seven hours.
- 3.9.69: A clash between workers of two parties took place and six persons were injured—two of them seriously.
- 13.10.69: One person was killed and another injured when supporters of the CPI(M) and the SSP clashed with bombs and lathis.
- 14.10.69: Another person died and the total casualty mounted to two. Bombs were freely used along with daggers, spears and lathis during the clash on Monday, 13 October 1969. Two houses were burnt down. The



injured persons involved in Monday's incidents did not go to hospital to avoid arrest. Another clash took place at Sreepur and Digha colliery areas during the day. About 4 persons were stated to be injured in that clash. Curfew was clamped on the area on the day.

15.10.69: Tension continued in the Miga, Rana and Sripur Colliery areas for the third day, and a clash took place when one person was said to have been speared. Orders u/s 144 were promulgated and curfew reimposed from evening. 20 hutments in the area were burnt to ashes. Several houses were ransacked and bombs used. The management had to declare the closure of their three collieries., Rana, Sripur and Nigha, employing 11000 workers owing to the increasing lawlessness in their collieries since October 13.

16.10.69: Curfew was reimposed for the fourth consecutive day at a.m. in the Sripur Colliery area with a break for an hour in the afternoon. Sripur group of four collieries were closed down rendering about 15000 people jobless.

17.10.69: The disturbances caused a large-scale exodus of the families of workers. Over 100 houses were burnt down and nearly a thousand workers rendered destitute.

19.10.69: Following a fresh clash in which one person was injured a 17 hour-curfew was reimposed.

22.10.69: A reign of terror was let loose by CPI(M) workers in five collieries i.e. Sripur, Rana, Nimcha, East Nimcha and Niga, in a desperate effort to gain control over the workers unions. Mr. Sushil Dhara, Commerce and Industry Minister, West Bengal, on his return after visiting the affected areas, told newsmen at a conference that during his tour he had gathered that the CPI(M) workers had indulged in large-scale loot, arson, and murderous assaults on colliery workers. Three persons had been killed and 80 injured. One hundred houses had been burnt down and 250 houses looted. According to Mr. Dhara during the curfew hours about 2000 CPI(M) workers, wearing party badges and waiving party flags, attacked the Sripur workers' colony with deadly weapons. The police did not take any action.

#### 21 RANA COLLIERY

14.6.69: The Welfare Officer was gheraoed for 2 hours and rescued on the strength of a search warrant.

Sept. 69: One person succumbed to injuries sustained in a clash.

#### 22 MOIRA COLLIERIES

4.8.69: Clash between supporters of CPI(M) and SSP took place in which one person was killed. 15 persons were arrested and sec. 144 was promulgated.

Sept. 69: 87 colliery workers were injured, 15 of them seriously, following a clash between supporters of differ-

ent parties. The Manager's office was attacked and damaged. Ramdayal Malla, stated to be a CPI supporter, one of the injured workers of the colliery, died in hospital.

### 23. PARASEA COLLIERY

20.8.69: 11 persons were hurt in a clash between workers of SSP and CPI(M) recently here. One person stated to be supporter of CPI(M) was killed. 4 SSP leaders including Sri Ramanand Tewari, ex-Police Minister of Bihar and Prof. S. Aich, Chairman of W. Bengal SSP, were arrested for holding a public meeting in Parasea Colliery defying sec. 144. They were released later on.

11.10.69: Four CPI(M) supporters were injured by bombs.

26.10.69: Police fired to disperse a mob after a policeman was seriously assaulted. Two injured. None was arrested.

### 24. KHAS DHARMABANDH COLLIERY:

2.8.69: One man was killed and three others seriously injured when a mob from a nearby village raided workers' tenements at Khas Dharmabandh Colliery, in which there has been intense rivalry between the old union and the newly formed union led by Mr. A. K. Roy, MLA CPI(M), for some time past. In course of the raid somebody fired a gun as a result of which one man was killed instantaneously and three received injuries. In a similar clash some time back another man was

killed in the same colliery. No arrests have been made so far in connexion with August 2 clashes.

#### 25. BAGDIGI KUJAMA COLLIERY

- 24.8.69: Police arrested 42 persons belonging to Krantikari Koyla Mazdoor Sangh on 24 August in connexion with the recent disturbances at Bagdigi Kujama Colliery when a constable was injured as a result of bomb explosion. Sri Madanjit Singh, S.P., Dhanbad has taken a serious view of this incident. Sri S. K. Rai, leader of the KKMS, who happens to be an MLA of BKD condemned these mass arrests by police.

#### 26. EAST CHORAH COLLIERY

- 4.8.69: Mr. Ramnitan Kahar, a CPI(M) worker of Haripur Colliery was killed outside the East Chorah Colliery near Raniganj, following a clash between two groups of workers alleged to be the supporters of the CPI(M) and the SSP. Police arrested 15 persons including the manager and the Labour Officer of the colliery and a prominent SSP leader of this area, Mr. Basishtamuni Tewari. The CPI(M) leaders alleged that the clash was a sequel to the efforts of the colliery owners to break the trade union movements in the collieries.

#### 27. MADHUBANDH COLLIERY

- 18.9.69: Ramdeo Singh, reported to be a local CPI(M) worker, was killed and three other party workers were injured.

- 20.9.69: The Manager and four other officers were arrested in connexion with the above incident. About 1000 supporters of CPI(M) raided the office of the colliery in the night and smashed window panes, furniture and ransacked it defying the Magistrate and armed policemen posted there. Colliery operation suspended.

#### 28. PURE SITALPUR COLLIERY

- 22.9.69: Following a clash between two groups of workers three were seriously injured and admitted to hospital. Several houses were looted. Two persons have been arrested.

#### 29. EAST GHANHOODIH COLLIERY

- 9.10.69: A mob of nearly 200 persons made an unprovoked attack on workers' tenements at the above Colliery when a colliery worker was brutally killed on the spot and another died in hospital and six others were injured, two seriously. It is reported that the raid was made by hired goondas of the INTUC which was dislodged from the colliery by Krantikari Koyla Mazdoor Sangh.

#### 30. NIGHA COLLIERY

- 22.10.69: Alleged assault by CPI(M) supporters on an SSP supporter who was reporting for duty after re-opening of the colliery.



31.

- 21.3.69: Agent of a Colliery in Kulti was rescued by Police after 9 hours' gherao.

## 32. CHINAKURI COLLIERY

- 22.3.69: About 40 young men of Chinakuri village demanded employment and stopped all vehicular traffic on Chinakuri Road, including cars carrying personnel to the colliery. They dispersed at the intervention of Mr. Madhu Banerjee, Labour leader.

## 33. GHIMINT COLLIERY

- 22.3.69: 50 young men from Kankhoya village, led by Gana Committee leaders, demanded employment for the unemployed and a school in the village to be provided by the Company.

- 26.6.69: 200 villagers with red flags, with bombs, arrows and stones, attacked a meeting of the recognized colliery Mazdoor Congress Union inside the compound. 20 persons were injured.

## 34. LODNA COLLIERIES CO. LTD.

- 19.7.69: Mr. D. R. Chopra, CME, and some officers were gheraoed by 250 workers.

## 35. SEARSOLE COLLIERY

May, 1969: Colliery Officer, Mr. Jha was gheraoed by 500 CPI workers for 49 hours.

## 36. BANKSIMULA COLLIERY

29.9.69: About 25 persons looted the doctor's quarters. Used bombs and other weapons. No arrest was made.

## 37. BISWESWAR THUNDER COLLIERY

11.10.69: A clash took place between supporters of SSP and Congress in which four coal miners were injured.

## 38. CHORA COLLIERY

15.10.69: The Manager was gheraoed for about 5 hours and rescued by police on the strength of a search warrant.

## 39. GIRIMENT COLLIERY

23.11.69: About 600 people, armed with bombs and spears attacked the workers' dhowrahs. It is alleged that the attackers were followers of the CPI(M) and they came from neighbouring collieries. Nine houses were looted and two burnt down. Police used tear-gas and fired one round. One person—Dhaneswar Mahato—was killed and 26 others were injured, seven of whom were sent to hospital. An inspector of police and two constables were also injured.

## 40. EAST CHORA COLLIERY

24.11.69: A worker, alleged to be a supporter of SSP, was speared to death during an inter-party clash. The body of the worker, Sri Ram Prasad Ahir, was later recovered from a bush nearby.

## 41. UPPER DHOWRAH COLLIERY

25.11.69: A violent mob attacked Upper Dhowrah where about 500 workers live and bombs and guns were used by the raiders and the hutments and paddy stacks had been put on fire.

## LOWER DHOWRAH COLLIERY

25.11.69: A violent mob attacked and huts were burnt and houses were bombed.

## 42. NAGS KAJORA JAMRAD COLLIERY

6.12.69: The Financial Manager was gheraoed for about 12 hours by the workers of the colliery and was rescued by the Police at about 9-30 P.M.

## 43. JORE JANAKI KHAS COLLIERY

21.12.69: Colliery reportedly remains completely stopped since 21.12.69 because, CPI(M) followers from outside have cut ditches on the quarry roads to prevent movement of coal by road which is the only means of despatch of coal from the colliery, with

a view to establish their union by ousting the Forward Block controlled labour union in the colliery recognised since a long time.

#### 44. SAMLA COLLIERY

28.12.69: The manager of the colliery was gheraoed by CPI(M) followers and released at 8-30 P.M. by the leaders.

#### 45. NAG'S KAJORA JAMBAD COLLIERY (See Sl. 42 also)

18.12.69: The Manager was gheraoed in the open for nine hours and released on the strength of a search warrant. In the face of the continued intimidation by rowdy elements the loyal workers are not in a position to take the responsibility of running the mine and consequently the normal work in the colliery had to be suspended from the first shift i.e. 8 a.m. of the 18th December 1969.

#### 46. PATMOHANA COLLIERY

11.1.70: A group of about 50 people attacked the miners' colony and burst bombs. The police were not arresting the alleged raiders or starting any investigation.

#### 47. BASTACOLLA COLLIERY

11.1.70: Clash occurred between two groups of people and lathis and spears were used. Eight persons were injured.

48. GIRIMINT COLLIERY

- 12.1.70: Bombs exploded and about three stalls were set on fire. A police picket has been guarding the mine since long.

49. BENALEE COLLIERY

- 12.1.70: Colliery closed down in view of the consistent and sustained illegal activities of the workmen affecting the morale of the supervisory staff and go-slow tactics adopted by the workmen. Sec. 144 was promulgated on 3.1.70.

50. RAMNAGORE COLLIERY

- 10.1.70: The Labour Welfare Officer was beaten with lathis while he was returning home. He was beaten till he lost his senses. Two persons were arrested in this connection.

51. NORTH JAMBAD COLLIERY

- January 1970: The proprietor and his son were made to stand in the field from 7 P.M. to 5 A.M. by the workers of the colliery demanding reinstatement of a 'retrenched' worker and the introduction of a profit sharing bonus.

52. VICTORY COLLIERY

- January 1970: Workers of the colliery under the leadership of CPI(M) gheraoed the agent of the establishment for more than 12 hours at night when the electric fans were kept open at full speed.



## 53. NIMCHA COLLIERY

30 January 1970: The manager of the colliery was gheraoed by the workers belonging to the CPI(M)-controlled Colliery Mazdoor Sabha demanding full implementation of the Wage Board recommendations.

## 54. AMGORA COLLIERY

30 January 1970: The manager of the colliery was gheraoed by the workers belonging to the CPI(M)-controlled Colliery Mazdoor Sabha demanding full implementation of the Wage Board recommendations.

## 55. JAMBAD KAJORA COLLIERY

1 February 1970: The Manager of the colliery was gheraoed by the workers who was rescued by the Police.

## 56. GOENKA KAJORA COLLIERY

2 February 1970: Two volunteers of the Ukhra Zone Workers Union began a hunger strike demanding reinstatement of 17 workers retrenched by the management.

## 57. KHASKENDA COLLIERY

7.1.70: The acting manager and four other officials of the colliery were under gherao since morning by a group of CPI(M)-led workers till publishing of the report in the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 9.2.70.

## 58. PATMOHANA COLLIERY

- 10.2.70: Four people were killed and seven others injured in a fierce fight between two groups of workers of the colliery belonging to CPI and CPI(M), wherein guns were used. A constable of the Police picket there received a gunshot injury. Seven people were arrested and orders under Section 144 Cr.P.C. were promulgated.

## M. SYMPOSIUM ON THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY/1969-70.

In order to undertake a comprehensive study of the various aspects of the Coal Mining Industry through a number of symposia at different centres of the coalfields, a Coal Symposium Committee/1969-70 organized by the Mining, Geological and Metallurgical Institute of India, Joint Working Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Indian Mining Federation, Indian Colliery Owners' Association and M. P. & Vidarbha Mining Association, was constituted as follows:—

Shri R. G. Deo, Chairman	Director General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad.
Shri R. Lall, Vice-Chairman	Indian Mining Association.
Shri S. L. Chakravorty, Honorary Secretary.	Mining Adviser, Govt. of West Bengal.
Shri A. K. Mustafa, Hony. Finance Secretary	Macniell & Barry Ltd.
Shri M. Das, Hony. Treasurer.	Secretary, Indian Mining Federation.
Shri P. K. Guha Ray, Assistant Secretary	Joint Working Committee.

*Members:*

Shri D. C. Driver	President, Coal Consumers' Association of India.
Shri R. Maulik	Jardine Henderson Ltd.
Shri V. K. Poddar	Chairman, Indian Mining Federation.
Shri B. L. Agarwalla	President, Indian Colliery Owners' Association.
Shri J. N. Daga	President, M. P. & Vidarbha Mining Association.
Shri K. S. R. Chari	Coal Mining Adviser, Government of India.
Shri C. Balram	Director, National Coal Dev. Corporation Ltd.
Shri R. N. Sharma	Chief Mining Engineer, Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.
Shri G. S. Marwaha	Director of Mines Safety, Government of India.
Shri S. Bagchi	Dy. Director, Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad.
Shri B. R. Marwaha	Superintendent (Planning), Bengal Coal Co. Ltd.
Shri P. K. Ghosh	Hony. Secretary, Mining, Geological & Metallurgical Institute of India.
Shri D. N. Sett	Hony. Treasurer, Mining, Geological & Metallurgical Inst. of India.
Shri A. K. Mitra	Chief Mining Engineer, Coal Board.

It was felt that for the last few years the Coal Industry in the country had been passing through a critical stage. The demand did not come up to the expectation, production had practically stagnated with mounting pithead stocks, increasing labour wages and considerable unutilized capacity. Heavy indebtedness has destroyed the ability of the industry for absorbing an increase in the cost of production. With such a situation of stagnant demand and increased cost of all fronts, mechanization, the only logical solution to high costs and the only means to survival in this competitive market, is difficult to think of Decontrol from rigid control and sheltered market had thrown the industry into a state of nervous uncertainty. Against this background a decision was taken to make a thorough study of all aspects of the industry with a definite aim in view. The problems of the coal industry are varied, complicated and at times baffling. Some of them are our own creation and some are inherent and unavoidable. This is why it was decided to bring together on a common platform all knowledgeable persons, organizations and Government departments who have something to do with coal so that through discussion a consensus might be worked out to lift the industry out of the morass of stagnation. The objective of the Symposium is to garner the collective wisdom of entrepreneurs, engineers, technologists, administrators and planners.

Subsequently, the Coal Board, the Institution of Engineers (India) and the National Coal Development Corporation Ltd., were also enlisted as co-sponsors of Coal Symposium. The first Symposium was held on 23 August 1969 in the Birla Industrial and Technological Museum Auditorium and inaugurated by Sri Jagannath Rao, Minister of State for Mines & Metals, Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals, Government of India. The main subject was "Future Prospects & Perspective" and four papers were presented under this heading, on:

(1) Future Demand of Coal in India—Projection upto 1980, (2) Place of Coal in Energy Development, (3) Utilization Pattern—Trends in the Pattern of Coal usages in India—Present & Future and (4) Transport and Rationalized Movement of Coal. Shri V. K. Poddar, Chairman, representing the Joint Working Committee, presented a paper on Mine at the above Symposium.

The inaugural session of the Symposium was held under the Presidentship of Shri Sushil Kumar Dhara, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of West Bengal, in Calcutta in the meeting hall of the Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The session was inaugurated by Shri Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal. At the above session three illuminating papers were presented by (1) Shri K. K. Ray, Chairman, Coal Board and Coal Controller on 'Coking Coal for Metallurgical Consumers', (2) Shri Bhaskar Mitter, Chairman, Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd., on 'Problems of Coal Mining Industry' and (3) Dr. A. Lahiri, Director, Central Fuel Research Institute on 'Role of Coal in Energy Pattern of India'. The Symposium has been tentatively divided into six sessions: (1) Future Prospects & Perspective, (2) Problems of Production & Development, (3) Problems of Coking Coal, (4) Human Aspect, (5) Problems of Marketing & Utilization of Non-coking Coal and finally (6) Finance.

When all the sessions are over and discussions recorded an Editorial Committee would draw up a report and make provisional recommendations. The report of the Editorial Committee would be subjected to scrutiny at the debate at the concluding session before publication of the proceedings.

The Second Symposium on the Coal Mining Industry was held on 21 and 22 November 1969 at Dishergarh Club. Shri R. H. Mody, Resident Director of M/s. Tata Iron &



Steel Co. Ltd., who was the Chief Guest, inaugurated the session. About 300 delegates from all parts of India attended the two-day session of the Symposium. The main subject discussed was the Problems of Production and Development of Coal Mining Industry. Altogether twentyone papers were read and discussed at the above Symposium. These subjects covered Costs, Mechanization, Machinery and Spares, Land and Land Sub-soil and Surface, Management Aspect, Controls—statutory or otherwise, output per man-shift, Production Target and Role of Research. Sri H. N. Mookherjee, Vice-Chairman, representing the J.W.C., presented a paper on "Cost Study in Coal Mining Industry". Sri N. B. Lall Singha, Ex-Chairman and a Committee Member of the Federation, representing the J.W.C., also presented a paper on "Land Sub-Soil and Surface".

The Third Symposium will be held at Dhanbad and papers will be presented mainly on problems of coking coal covering the following subjects:—

1. Production
2. Conservation and Stowing
3. Beneficiation
4. Utilization
5. Distribution.

The Fourth Symposium is scheduled to be held at Ranchi in January 1970 to deal with the subject of "Human Aspect" under which the papers on the following will be presented:—

1. Safety.
2. (a) Training & Education (Senior Grade).  
(b) Training & Education (Subordinate Grade).
3. Sociological Aspect—Present and Future Pattern.

The Fifth Symposium is scheduled to be held at Nagpur in February 1970 under the main heading 'Problems of Marketing & Utilization of Non-coking Coal' under which the papers on the following subjects will be presented:—

1. Marketing including export.
2. Utilization.
3. Diversification of Use and Creation of Demand.

The Sixth session will be held in Calcutta the date of which has not yet been fixed to discuss the subject of 'Finance' under which the papers on the following will be presented:—

1. Present Day Problems.
2. Financing Future Developments.
3. Royalty, Cess & Taxes.

The concluding session will be held at New Delhi to finalize discussions on the draft report of the Editorial Committee. The Presentation Ceremony will be held in Calcutta for presentation of the Commemoration Volume to different Government departments, institutions and organizations.

The actual dates and address of future sessions will be fixed and notified later on.

#### N RENT FOR SURFACE LAND IN COAL BEARING AREAS IN BIHAR BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

Most of the collieries in Bihar have been working under pre-1949 leases which contained provisions for the colliery owners to hold and use surface lands as required at rates of

rent specified in the respective leases. For the purposes of mining coal large areas of surface lands are required for haulage, tram lines, surface machinery, coal stacks, colliery workshops, buildings, labours' quarters, hospitals, etc. Settlement of these lands was done in some cases by registered deeds separately from the underground mining rights and the rents were usually moderate. In other cases though there was no settlement in respect of the surface lands, the colliery owners were entitled to use these lands by virtue of the underground coal mining leases.

After the introduction of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, 1950, the working collieries became direct lessees of the Government of Bihar, paying royalty to the Government. The terms and conditions of the leases are governed by Clause 2 of Section 10 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act which were the same as those of the subsisting leases. The State Government however has been assessing rent for land occupied by collieries at exorbitant rates in contravention of this Act on the ground that the land was being used for commercial purposes. The surface lands were being separately treated from the coal mining leases and Circle Officers were demanding unusually high rents for such surface lands in addition to the rent being collected by the District Mining Officers.

The State Government of Bihar in arbitrarily announcing the rent for surface lands has not taken into account the fact that the use of surface land for colliery purposes was an integral part of mining operations and could not be separated from the general terms and conditions of the leases governing the operations of mines. The demand for high rents for the use of surface lands had been worrying the Coal Industry in Bihar for quite some time and representations made to the State Government without any effect. The above subject was discussed at the first meeting of the FICCI Sub-Committee

for Minerals including Coal held at New Delhi on 24 July 1969, and it was decided that the FICCI should address an appropriate communication to the Government of Bihar as well as to the Government of India, Ministry of Mines and Metals. It was further decided that the matter should also be placed before the Standing Committee of the Coal Advisory Council to be held in September 1969. Accordingly, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry made a representation in its letter No. F. 7852/SMF/3(1) dated 8. 8. 69 to the Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar, Patna.

The subject was taken up for discussion at the second meeting of the Standing Committee of the Coal Advisory Council held at New Delhi on 5. 9. 69 when it was stated by the representatives of the State Government of Bihar that as far as the surface rent in respect of lands covered by Sections 9, 10 and 11 of the Bihar Land Reforms Act was concerned, increase would be made either by agreement between the two parties or in case of failure to come to agreement, by reference to the Mines Tribunal. The State Government would be adopting this procedure. The pending demands for surface rent would also be modified according to the new instructions. In view of the clarification given by the State Government there was no further discussions on the subject.

Shri G. L. Bansal, Secretary-General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, wrote a D.O. letter No. F. 10484/SMF/3(1) dated 1. 11. 1969, to Shri N. C. Shrivastava, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Mines & Metals, Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals, New Delhi, emphasizing the need for clear instructions being given by the State Government to the local Mining Officers on the lines of the decision of the Standing Committee of the Coal Advisory Council. Shri



G. L. Bansal also addressed a similar letter to the Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar, Patna, to issue quickly suitable instructions to the local Mining Officers for collection of surface rent in accordance with the above decision.

O. ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES TO COLLIERY OWNERS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WAGE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS.

It may be recalled that Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman, pointed out at a tripartite meeting held between the Coal Industry, Labour and the Government on the 12th August, 1968, that Sri Jaisukhlal Hahti, the then Minister for Labour & Rehabilitation, New Delhi, had confirmed that those collieries who had entered into mutual agreement with their labour and their Unions on the various aspects of the implementation of the Wage Board Recommendations would be treated as having implemented the recommendations of the Wage Board. It was further pointed out that this policy of the Government was also confirmed by Sri P. C. Mathews, Secretary to the Ministry of Labour.

In the course of correspondence between the Federation and the Ministry of Labour on this issue, the Federation's Chairman was advised by Sri Sukla, Director of Industrial Relations, in his letter No. W.B. 16(42)/68 dated 30 November 1968, that necessary instructions had been issued to the Field Officers for issue of certificates. It however appeared that the instructions were not clear since certificates were being issued only to those collieries who had implemented the recommendations fully.

During the meeting with the representatives of the Coal Industry on 15 July 1969, the discussions centred round the



issue of certificates to managements who had either fully implemented the recommendations of the Wage Board or implemented most of the recommendations in consultation and in full agreement duly signed with the labour union who, in consideration of the difficult economic conditions in any particular colliery, had agreed to accept partial implementation which in most cases was nearly complete implementation with minor variations. Sri Jaisukhlal Hathi also confirmed that as long as agreements had been signed with the unions affiliated to the centrally recognized trade union or with an independent trade union having a majority of following at the collieries they would be accepted by the Government.

Recalling the above assurance given from time to time by the Minister of Labour, Sri V. K. Poddar addressed a D.O. letter dated 5 August 1969 to Sri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Minister for Labour & Rehabilitation, drawing his attention to the fact that many of the coal companies had entered into and signed agreements with the recognized unions in the presence of the Regional Labour Commissioners concerned and had applied to the Ministry for the issue of certificates. Pointing out that some of the applications had been pending for a long time, the Chairman requested the Minister to kindly check up this matter and give necessary instructions for the early issuance of certificates to those whose agreements were found in order. It was also pointed out in the letter that the Railway Board had recently called for tenders with a condition that certificates from the Regional Labour Commissioners would be required to be filed with the Railway within two and a half months from the date of the receipt of the orders by the coal companies. The RLCs would therefore be receiving a large bunch of applications for issuance of such certificates regarding implementation of the Wage Board recommendations and unless the procedure of scrutiny and issuance of certificates

was simplified it might perhaps not be possible to receive certificates in time in respect of collieries who had fully implemented the Wage Board recommendations and/or had entered into agreements with their Labour on implementation of most of the recommendations. The Chairman urged in his letter that the Government should appreciate that the basic purpose of resorting to a Wage Board, rather than statutes, was to encourage payment of wages through recommendations of a joint body and to create more harmony and encourage mutual discussions and agreements between the managements and labour, whereby both could appreciate each other's difficulties and come to a satisfactory settlement so that peace and harmony could be maintained. Sri Hans Raj Chhabra, Under Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Labour & Rehabilitation (Department of Labour & Employment) in his letter No. WB-16(35)/69 dated 29 October 1969, addressed to the Chairman of the Federation, stated that necessary instructions had been issued to the Regional Labour Commissioners for expediting the disposal of cases relating to issuance of implementation certificates pending with them.

In view of the fact that many supplying collieries, who had implemented the Wage Board recommendations and/or entered into agreements with their registered unions regarding the implementation of most of the recommendations of the Wage Board, had applied for the required certificate to their respective Regional Labour Commissioner (C), but owing to the minute scrutiny required for issuing such certificate they could not obtain them for submission in time to the Railway Board. The Committee of the Federation at its meeting held on 1 December 1969 considered the above subject and suggested that the Joint Working Committee should be requested to make a representation to the Railway Board for extension of time till 15 February 1970 for furnishing the Wage Board implementation certificates. Accordingly the JWC made a representation to the Secretary, Railway Board, in its letter No. 72/39/1164 dated 5 December 1969 asking for extension of time atleast up to 15 February 1970.

## P. F.O.R. PRICES OF COAL

The F.O.R. prices of coal of different grades, paid by the Railways and Hindustan Steel Ltd., as on 1 October 1969 are given below:

*Prices paid by the Railways:*

Grade:	(Per tonne F.O.R. Colliery)	
	Bengal/Bihar. (Steam)	Outlying. (Steam)
Selected 'A'	Rs. 39.09	—
Selected 'B'	Rs. 37.62	—
Selected	—	Rs. 38.19
Grade I/H	Rs. 34.26	Rs. 34.96
Grade II/HH.	Rs. 29.55	Rs. 32.87

*Prices paid by the Steel Plants:*

Grade.	Steam.	Slack.
A	Rs. 39.97	Rs. 38.95
B	Rs. 38.99	Rs. 37.96
C	Rs. 38.01	Rs. 36.99
D	Rs. 36.53	Rs. 35.50
E	Rs. 36.04	Rs. 35.00
F	Rs. 35.30	Rs. 34.27
G	Rs. 34.81	Rs. 33.77
H	Rs. 34.58	Rs. 33.53
HH	Rs. 32.64	Rs. 31.61

Q QUARTERLY MEETINGS WITH THE DIRECTOR, TRAFFIC  
(TRANSPORTATION) AND MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH  
THE JOINT DIRECTOR, TRANSPORTATION (COAL),  
RAILWAY BOARD.

The first quarterly meeting was held on 24 January 1969 at Calcutta.

Sri V. K. Poddar, Chairman, and Sri Pritamlal A. Chanchani, representing the Indian Mining Federation at the meeting, complained that the Railways were in effect meting out preferential treatment to the public sector collieries on the plea of enabling them to complete commitments for loading of loco coal for the Railways.

The Director, Traffic (Transportation) pointed out that the impression that the Railways were giving preferential treatment to public sector collieries was not correct. Regarding movement of coal to the South, he pointed out that in the context of the higher targets of coal production, loading would naturally have to be diversified and more and more coal for outlying areas must be loaded from the outlying fields, for example, for Southern India from the Singareni and Talcher collieries and for West India from the C.I.C (Korea-Rewa) and the Pench & Chanda fields. This was already the planned pattern and there was nothing new in this. So long as the requisite type of coal was available in the outlying fields, industries, which were already linked to Bengal and Bihar coal on proper certification, would continue to receive that coal and there was no question of allowing such industries to shut down.

Sri Chanchani wanted that the industries in Saurashtra, which had gone on to oil some years ago and had switched back to coal, should receive their coal from Bengal and Bihar



fields, as they did in the past. He stated that the old linkages should be restored if the consumer so wanted and felt that on the plea of the Rationalization Scheme Railways were encouraging coal movement to these areas from the outlying fields which was not fair to the collieries in the Bengal and Bihar fields.

D.T.T. explained that there had necessarily to be rationalized pattern. Industries in Gujarat and Saurashtra were already receiving coal from the outlying fields and it was not possible to switch this movement to Bengal and Bihar fields. He reiterated that in the context of higher and higher targets, loading would have to be rationalized and more and more coal for outlying areas must move from outlying fields, unless technical considerations required temporary relaxations.

Sri Chanchani stated that the Railways should try and increase the train loads for rakes via Waltair to 40 Boxes both for public and loco coal in the interest of better movement via that route. D.T.T. agreed to have the feasibility examined by Joint Director, Trans. (Coal) in consultation with the Southern and South Central Railways.

Sri Chopra of I.M.A. and Sri Chanchani suggested that the Railways should review their Rationalization Scheme and should not be guided by considerations other than maximizing transport availability. D.T.T. stated that the matter of revising the Rationalization Scheme had been dealt with even prior to decontrol and a special committee was appointed which either could not meet or could not come to a unanimous understanding. He stated that it was not possible to carry coal from anywhere to anywhere and that a certain amount of rationalization was necessary. In considering deviations from the Rationalization Scheme, the



Railways would naturally take into consideration the interest of maximum transport availability.

Sri Poddar suggested that in the matter of authorizing irrational movement of coal, the recommendations of D.G.T.D. should be called for and accepted by the Railways as final. D.T.T. stated that the Railways would prefer verification and certification through their own technical sources. Sri Poddar reiterated that D.G.T.D. was the competent authority and its recommendations should be accepted. D.T.T. did not agree, but stated that the suggestion of Sri Poddar would be duly considered.

Sri Chanchani stated that the Railways should not make changes in the zonal rationalization scheme without consulting the Industry. D.T.T. reiterated what he stated earlier and said that it was common knowledge that the matter had been under discussion for long, even prior to decontrol and that the Industry and Trade had not been able to come to a common understanding. In the circumstances, he stated that the Railways would review and revise the Rationalization Scheme to the extent considered necessary, in the best interest of maximizing rail transport of coal and that this would be in accordance with the decisions already taken in the past that the outlying areas must receive coal increasingly from the outlying fields. He stated that this was inevitable in the context of higher targets for coal production and movement.

On enquiry from the Trade regarding the likely pattern of coal loading in 1969, D.T.T. stated that the position was encouraging inasmuch as loading had been comparatively good even in those months in which there was normally difficulty owing to slack demands or due to the rigours of winter. He hoped that the movement in the coming months would be good unless affected by any unforeseen events.

D.T.T. stated that the rabi crop this year was expected to be even better than last year's and this was all to the good of the country. He hoped, however, that the difficulties which arose last year would not arise to that extent and that the matter was under constant review by the Ministry of Food & Agriculture, and that the experience of last year would stand us in good stead this year. He concluded, however, that the details of the movement patterns of this year's rabi crop had still to be determined.

D.T.T. stated that there were reports of the misloading of slack coal against allotment of soft coke and that this was apparently being done to utilize the special facilities enjoyed by soft coke viz. piecemeal movement to box-fit stations and to stations within a radius of 25 Kms. of such stations. He was of the opinion that as other types of coal were being loaded against allotments of soft coke either the demand for soft coke did not exist or there was misuse and that the quota should be reduced to the level of 400 as prior to the meeting held in August last year, and that this appeared to be the actual level of demand.

D.T.T. requested the Trade to accept and give trial to the scheme for collierywise soft coke quotas worked out by the Joint Director, Trans. (Coal), in consultation with the Industry which had worked well in the case of hard coke.

Sri V. K. Poddar and Sri Chanchani on behalf of the Joint Working Committee supported the proposal for a collierywise quota stating that the Joint Working Committee represented the biggest sector of the soft coke producing collieries and desired that the Railways implement the scheme which was acceptable to the majority, even though there might not be unanimity. There was agitated discus-

sion on the subject and D.T.T. concluded the discussion by saying that the scheme of collierywise quotas might be given a trial as worked out by the Joint Director, Trans. (Coal) after a meeting held to discuss the subject, failing which the facilities given for movement of soft coke in May 1968 should be withdrawn.

Sarbasri V. K. Poddar and Chanchani suggested that to the extent that there was a shortfall in loading for steel and washeries, the quotas for other consumers should be raised. D.T.T. stated that the present target of 6600 and its consumer-wise break-up could be revised only on receipt of firm indication of assessment of demand during the 4th Plan period. Meanwhile, the present target appeared adequate. Once the target loading was achieved on a sustained basis, the question of upward revision of the target would be considered.

Sri Chanchani suggested that the target movement above Moghalsarai should be 2500 wagons. He also suggested an increase in the total target of loading in Bengal-Bihar field from 6600 wagons to 7100 wagons daily as per following direction-wise distribution:—

Directions.	E. Railway.	S. E. Railway.	Total
Above Moghalsarai	2350	150	2500
Below Moghalsarai	550	1600	4600
Industrial Area	1600		
Down Country	850		
Total:	5350	1750	7100

The C.O.P.S., Eastern Railway, said that the so-called system of arrear supply had developed on account of an

understanding between the local railway officers and collieries as a result of which the wagons were supplied late but earlier than in the event of declared short supply. In his view in coal loading variations between allotment and supplies of the order of 2 to 3% a day, was inescapable, as allotment was made on the anticipatory availability of empties 24 hours in advance.

D.T.T. said that it was desirable to ensure that the allotment conformed, by and large, to wagon availability. He decided that (a) the loading Railways should examine feasibility of a second placement to make good shortfall in supply and study implications on this proposal from the point of view of free time, pilot availability, etc., (b) if arrear supply was made up within 24 hours from the due date and time, no intimation to the colliery was required but if the supply was given later than this period telephonic information should be given by the Yard Master.

The Industry represented that in the event of Railways failing to meet their own short supplies even on the 7th day, collieries should not be penalized by lapsing the same. D.T.T. decided that wagons short-supplied on the 7th day on Railway account should not be lapsed but should be made good within the month.

Sri V. K. Poddar said that if against box rake programme four-wheelers were supplied, the free time for boxes should be applicable. D.T.T. said that the only case where four-wheelers were deliberately supplied was in Dn. ASN. III where the pilot waited to draw the load. He had now instructed Eastern Railway that a second pilot should be introduced, if need be, but deliberate substitution of box wagons by four-wheelers in this particular case to reduce free time should be



avoided. About other cases, D.T.T. said that the type of rolling stock supplied determined the free time granted. Since box wagons enjoyed higher free time, the proportion of box wagons determined the free time. D.T.T. said in the present time Railway Board did not favour any relaxation of free time, as this was not feasible. The Industry desired that the matter should be reconsidered by the Board.

The next meeting was held at Nagpur on 22 May 1969. Most of the discussions at the meeting centred on difficulties of collieries and consumers in the C.I.C., Korba, Orissa and Pench and Chanda fields.

An important point of general interest to Bengal/Bihar collieries raised at the meeting was soft coke quotas. A suggestion was made for the introduction of a collierywise quota for the movement of soft coke on the lines of quotas introduced for hard coke. This was opposed by the representatives of the Soft Coke Producers Collieries Association.

Sri Agarwala raised the question of introducing a collierywise quota for movement of soft coke on the lines of quotas introduced for hard coke. The representative of the Soft Coke Producers Collieries' Association, Sri M.P. Narang, opposed this scheme. Sri Narang stated that it was not possible to distribute even 400 wagons per day to all the collieries in Jharia fields, whereas there were more than 400 collieries. It would create inequity and even if each soft coke producing colliery got one wagon each, nobody would be satisfied. He further stated that the quota system would not encourage free production and distribution of soft coke.



D.T.T. stated that the matter had been discussed in earlier meetings also, in which whereas the other Associations had urged the introduction of such a scheme, the S.C.P.C.A. had opposed it, and that it was decided to leave it to the railways to take a final decision. A decision would be communicated by the railways in due course.

The next meeting was held in Calcutta on 11 September 1969.

Sri B. L. Agarwalla of I.C.O.A. drew the attention of the Director, Traffic (Trans.) and other members to item 1 under the heading "Two-pilot rakes" at page 10 of the minutes of the quarterly meeting held on 24.1.69 in which it was agreed that the Jt. Director, T. (Coal), should hold monthly meeting—one in Asansol and another in Dhanbad—so that the problem of formation of two-pilot rakes could be settled. He however regretted that no such meeting had been held so far. It was agreed that Jt. Director, T (Coal), would organize this soon in consultation with the Chief Operating Superintendent, Eastern Railway. The two meetings proposed would be held before the end of October 1969.

Sri Sirkar of I.M.A. pointed out that a circular No. XG. 3051/53 dated 22.8.69 had been issued by the Coal Area Superintendent, Dhanbad, to Manki, Ray, Churi and Dakrabukbuka Collieries intimating that when any box wagon loaded by the colliery was found overloaded beyond 2 tonnes of the marked carrying capacity, the entire box rake including the overloaded box wagons would be returned to the colliery siding for adjustment of the overloaded coal or coke for which demurrage for the entire rake would be levied. He stated that it would cause great financial loss to the collieries, as they would not only pay demurrage but also lose further

allotment till the rake was drawn out after adjustment. Sri Chanchani of I.M.F. stated that the circular was a deviation from the Coal Tariff rules which clearly stated that such overloading should be adjusted at the weighbridges and not in the colliery sidings.

The Chief Operating Superintendent, Eastern Railway, explained that the overloading of box wagons by collieries had been increasing and in spite of all efforts made to bring the position under control, the results had not been encouraging. Coal loading was being stepped up progressively and if the incidence of overloading was not checked, the Railway yard would be cluttered up with wagons awaiting adjustment and this would seriously affect loading. This circular was issued only in relation to the collieries situated near Ray station itself where the placement of the rake for adjustment in the colliery siding would not pose any problem.

The Director, Traffic (Trans.) drew the attention of the members to the potential danger in over-loaded wagons going undetected and little care on the part of the collieries should solve the problem. Regarding the enforcement of the provisions of the circular issued by the Coal Area Superintendent, each case would have to be dealt with on its merits and the Chief Operating Superintendent, Eastern Railway, would deal with them.

The I.M.F. had requested inclusion in the agenda of the question of suspension of wagon supplies on account of detention of wagons. Speaking on this subject, Sri Worah of I.M.F. stated that wagon supplies were being stopped in certain colliery sidings over a number of days because the colliery had detained wagons in the colliery siding beyond the free time. He stated that detention of wagons in colliery

sidings occurred due to several reasons, for example, machinery break-down, temporary staff trouble or any other factor beyond the control of a colliery. When wagons were thus detained, they paid demurrage on the wagons and the day's allotment was also short supplied. No colliery would detain wagons unless absolutely unavoidable. The Railways should not impose very severe penalty over and above this, by stopping wagons supplies to the sidings over a protracted period. Sri Chanchani stated that one of the reasons when wagons had to be detained in the sidings was continuous allotment of steam coal only instead of giving steam and slack allotments proportionately.

The Director, Traffic (Trans.), stated that the members would agree with him that persistent non-utilization of wagons supplied to the collieries would result in the loss of loading capacity affecting the overall coal movement. Such cases had to be taken up. Occasional defaults were condoned. He stated that collieries could always put forward the reasons for detention of wagons in their sidings to the Divisional Superintendent concerned and the course of action would be decided on the merits of each individual case.

The Director, Traffic (Trans.) stated that owing to availability of sufficient empty wagons, the Railways at present would not impose any quota system for movement of soft coke. But when the situation warranted, the quota system would have to be introduced on the basis of the production capacity of soft coke producing collieries, but monthly quota would be given instead of daily quota.

Sri Worah stated that two years back, the Chairman, Railway Board, in course of his meeting with the Coal Trade advised Railways to review the Siding Agreements, but no

action had till now been taken by Eastern and South Eastern Railways. The Chief Operating Superintendents, Eastern and South Eastern Railways, were requested to do the needful early.

Sri Worah further stated that the Weight Only system on third party account was being abolished at the instance of the Commercial Directorate of the Railway Board, although this practice had been there in the coalfields for many years. Jt. Director, Trans. (Coal), stated that this matter was under reference to the Commercial Directorate now and that the Eastern Railway had extended this privilege till the 30 September 1969 pending final decision. The Director, Traffic (Trans.) promised to expedite the decision.

The first monthly meeting between the Joint Director, Transportation (Coal) and the representatives of the Coal Industry was held on 13 May 1969.

Sri D. Hariram, J.D.T. (Coal) introduced himself to members present as the new incumbent to the post. In his welcome speech he stated that while endeavours were never lacking in achieving higher levels of loading according to the demand, the results might not always show the peak level of loading in all months. Careful analysis of the demands, adjustments in pilot working and operational methods and with a closer liaison between the Trade and the Railways, much more equitable distribution of coal could be achieved.

Sri Chanchani stated that the share of covered wagons for the loading of soft coke and hard coke should be increased. J.D.T. (Coal) replied that as the manufacture of open 4-wheelers had been stopped, covered 4-wheelers fleet was



increasing particularly on the Eastern Railway. On the Eastern Railway where the bulk of piecemeal soft coke loading was done, the supply, as it was, was more of covered wagons rather than open wagons.

Sri Chanchani and Sri U. H. Worah stated that efforts should be made by the railways to achieve a daily allotment of 2600 wagons in the above-Mughalsarai direction during the coming season in accordance with the target already laid down by the Railway Board for the Eastern Railway. J.D.T. (Coal) stated that the railways were also working towards the same target level of loading, provided the traffic was cleared at the respective destinations steadily by the consumers.

Sri R. L. Worah, representing I.C.O.A., stated that he was glad to note that the railways were making a scientific approach to the problem relating to an even distribution of coal. He only wanted to emphasize that the small collieries should be better looked after in the supply of wagons, as their very survival depended upon regular clearance of coal. The railways should also devise some means for movement of more brick-burning coal and soft coke than what had hitherto been achieved. J.D.T. (Coal) explained that a very careful watch was being exercised to see that the piecemeal indents got closer attention and the collieries, particularly in Jharia, producing soft coke and hard coke had steadier clearance. In order to help more piecemeal loading to be organized in Jharia, recently a decision was taken to limit BRK box rake programmes in the Jharia field to only 3 rakes per day and equitably distribute the other demands in Asansol, Karanpura and the South Eastern Railway portion of the Bengal-Bihar field. This had produced encouraging results.

The next meeting was held on 22 June 1969.



The J.D.T. (Coal) stated that the trend of coal loading upto 27 June 1969 had been highly disappointing, particularly in the Bengal-Bihar field. In the first fortnight, only 4200 wagons per day could be loaded on the Eastern Railway portion on account of non-availability of wagons. The main reason was the heavy loading of foodgrains to the extent of 900 to 1000 wagons per day in the Punjab and Haryana areas for different destinations in the country. On account of breaches in South India, the movement via Waltair, both to Southern and South Central Railways was also impeded till the 15th of the month. Within the limited wagon availability efforts were made to effect equitable distribution, so that no particular interest was completely neglected. In the first fortnight of June, assistance was given for the loading of BRK coal as the season was coming to an end. In the second fortnight, industrial and power house demands, both in the northern as well as in the southern spheres, was given greater importance and for this purpose some adjustments were made in the loading of loco coal itself for the railways.

Sri Worah of I.M.A. stated that while the Trade appreciated the conditions that had led to the low level of coal loading in the Bengal-Bihar field, they would also like to know what arrangements the railways had made for getting more wagons in the years to come. Foodgrain loading would be an annual feature and natural calamities in some form or other could happen again and again. J.D.T. (Coal) stated that the railways had gone in for additional wagon building programme and manufacturers had been pressed to speed up their delivery. Progressively the wagon availability would continue to improve in the years to come.

Sri Sirkar of I.M.A. stated that S. E. Railway was not loading up to the targetted level of 1900 wagons per day. J.D.T. (Coal) explained that the daily average loading on

S. E. Railway's Bengal-Bihar field in the month of June was 1646 wagons per day. At this level of loading, by and large, the full demand was met particularly because of allotment for Steel Plants was slightly lower than in previous months.

Sri Worah also pointed out that the demurrage that accrued as a result of detention of wagons on account of stoppage of work by labour owing to the sudden death of Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri was waived to the extent of 90 per cent only and all collieries had been asked to pay 10 per cent as nominal demurrage. He stated that if the condition was such that no loading was done owing to sudden demise of the Prime Minister, the question of charging 10 per cent would have no meaning. This matter should be brought again to the notice of the concerned authorities to see that full relief was given to all collieries. J.D.T. (Coal) stated that this matter would be examined and the results conveyed to the I.M.A. in due course.

#### R. DECLARATION OF COAL INDUSTRY AS A PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICE.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to sub-clause (vi) of clause (n) of section 2 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (14 of 1947), the Central Government, which had previously declared the coal industry to be a public utility service for the purposes of the said Act for a further period of six months from 8 January 1969, extended its duration for a further period of six months from 8th July 1969. This was published under Notification No. F.1/39/69-LRI dated 1 July 1969, issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Department of Labour and

Employment) as S.O. 2795 in Part II, Section 3(ii) of the Gazette of India dated 12 July 1969.

The Central Government by a further Notification, No. F.1/87/69-LRI dated 23 December 1969, issued by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Department of Labour and Employment) and published as S.O. 31 in the Gazette of India, Part II, Section 3(ii) dated 3 January 1970, extended the said period for a further period of six months from 8 January 1970.

#### S. MEETINGS BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDUSTRY AND THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENT.

Besides a number of meetings mentioned in appropriate sections in this Report, the representatives of the Coal Industry held seven high level meetings with the representatives of the Union Government during the year. The details are given below:

1. Meeting with Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Union Minister for Railways, Sri Jagannath Rao, Minister of State for Petro-Chemicals and Mines & Metals, Sri Parimal Ghosh, Minister of State for Railways, Sri G. D. Khandelwal, Chairman, Railway Board, Sri P. C. Sethi, Minister of State for Finance, and Sri K. S. R. Chari, Adviser, Sri N. C. Srivastava, Secretary, and Sri N. D. Gupta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petro-Chemicals and Mines & Metals, on 30 April to 2 May 1969 at New Delhi. (Extension of Loco Coal Contract, Law and Order situation in the Coalfields and Dearness Allowance).

2. Meeting with Sri N. D. Gupta, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals on 17 May 1969 at Calcutta. (Law and Order situation in the Coal-fields, Recommendations made by the Study Group on Coal Prices regarding subsidy. The necessity of an ad-hoc increase in the rates of subsidy, The collection of excise duty of 75 Paise per tonne of coal to build up a fund for the conservation and development of the coking coal industry and expediting payment to be made thereto and the necessity of taking a decision for a further payment of 75 P. per tonne after an acceptable scheme of coal sampling).
3. Meeting with Sri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Union Minister for Labour, Employment & Rehabilitation, on 15 July 1969 at New Delhi (Implementation of Wage Board recommendations, Variable Dearness Allowance and Coal Price).
4. Meeting with Sri G. D. Khandelwal, Chairman, Railway Board, on 15 July 1969 at New Delhi. (Loco Coal Tender).
5. Meeting with Sri Jaisukhlal Hathi, Minister for Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation, Sri Jagannath Rao, Minister of State for Petroleum & Chemicals and Mines & Metals, Sri P. C. Sethi, Minister of State for Finance, Sri K. K. Dhar, Director, Mines and Metals, at New Delhi in August 1969. (Loco Coal Price, Payment of variable dearness allowance, Norms for the issue of certificates regarding implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Board by the R.L.C., Credit facilities and arrangement for financial accommodation with the Bank of Behar).



6. Meeting with the Railway Coal Tender Committee on 19 & 27 August 1969 at New Delhi (Loco Coal Prices).
7. Meeting with the Railway Coal Tender Committee, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Minister for Railways, and the representatives of the Ministry of Mines & Metals at New Delhi in September 1969. (Supply of coal to the Railways, Coal Prices, Implementation of Wage Board recommendations).

## VI. LEGISLATION

### A. PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE COAL MINES REGULATIONS, 1957.

The Federation received a letter, No. 1/14/69-M.I., dated 14 May 1969, from the Government of India, Ministry of Labour, Employment & Rehabilitation (Department of Labour and Employment), together with a copy of the Ministry's Notification No. 1/14/69-M.I. dated 14 April 1969, publishing a draft of the Coal and Metalliferous Mines (Amendment) Regulations, 1969, asking the Federation to send its comments to the Director General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad, by 1 August 1969. The text of the proposed amendment is as follows:—

"Unless permitted in writing by the Chief Inspector and subject to such conditions as he may specify therein, no shot-firing or blasting shall be done in an open-cast working, if any railway, public road, or any building or other structure, not belonging to the mine, lies anywhere in an area falling within a radius of 300 metres from the place of firing or blasting."



The Committee of the Federation took the view that if written permission of the Director General of Mines Safety was required in every case of shot-firing or blasting, in case any railway, public road or building or other structure lay anywhere in an area falling within a radius of 300 metres from the place of firing or blasting, it would be a hard job for the collieries to carry on day-to-day mining operations. The Committee therefore considered that the above proposal would result in unnecessary delay and harassment. It was further considered by the Federation Committee that the existing provision for taking precautionary measures before shot-firing was approved by the manager, who was assigned the highly responsible job of looking after the safety of the mine, was quite adequate for the purpose. The Federation in its letter No. 556/927 dated 19 June 1969, forwarded these comments on the above lines to the Director General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad.

The Federation received another letter, No. 1/21/69-MI dated 8 October 1969, from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Labour, Employment & Rehabilitation, (Department of Labour & Employment), enclosing a copy of a Notification, No. 1/21/69-MI dated 19 September 1969, publishing a draft of the Coal Mines (Amendment) Regulations, 1969 and asking the Federation to send its comments to the Director General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad by 1 January 1970. The Federation considered the proposed amendments and forwarded the following comments to the Director General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad, in its letter No. 1779 dated 24 December 1969:—

"The Committee of the Federation is rather surprised to note the use of obsolete expression like the 'Regional Inspector' and 'Chief Inspector' in several clauses of the proposed amendment. These words should be properly substituted by appro-

appropriate nomenclature such as 'Deputy Director of Mines Safety', 'Director General of Mines Safety', etc."

"A fiery seam has not been defined anywhere in the draft amendment and the Federation Committee, therefore, considers that a fiery seam should be precisely defined and incorporated under clause 4(c) of the draft amendment so that there might not be any occasion for misinterpretation or misunderstanding."

*"Clause 9—Proposed Regulation 123A :*

I am directed to draw your attention to clause 9 of the draft and the provision of Regulation 123A and suggest that the following proviso should be added thereafter:—

"Provided that the Chief Inspector may permit in any mine or part thereof any alternative precautionary measure to be taken in lieu of stone dust barrier",

*Clause No. 11.—Proposed Regulation 131(3)(a):*—Since the pressure recording instruments are not available at a reasonable cost and since their maintenance cost will be abnormally high in provision of graph papers and in the up-keep of instruments, the proposed Sub-Regulation 3(a) should read as under:

"a suitable pressure recording gauge or water gauge and"

*Clause No. 15.—Proposed Regulation 136A:*—The provision of this clause in regard to the velocity of air current at specified distance so close to the working faces is not possible during the day-to-day working in Indian Mining conditions for reasons enumerated below:—

1. Most of the seams in India are thick and hence cross-section of the gallery is very large being generally of the order of 12.5 sq. meter to 15 sq. meter. So the current of the air required to achieve the velocities now proposed will be too high and impracticable to achieve. Much lesser velocities are quite sufficient to provide adequate ventilation and comfortable working conditions at the face.
2. From the last ventilation connection, the air current is coursed to the face by brattice cloth which is not air leak proof and quite much quantity of air leaks through it before reaching the face. The brattice cloth is temporarily fixed in the gallery and has to be continuously extended in haste with the advancement of the face and consequently there is always some gap between the roof and floor and the brattice cloth, more so, because of the uneven surface of the roof and floor.
3. Thin galvanized sheets which can replace the brattice cloth and reduce the air leakage to some extent are not available in India in adequate quantities, and would substantially increase the cost.
4. If the proposed velocities are enforced the quantity and pressure of the main mechanical ventilator will have to be substantially increased and hence the Main Mechanical Ventilator will have to be replaced by higher capacity in most of the mines, resulting in much capital investment, and much higher running cost.

5. Pressure consumed during the coursing, upto the face with such velocities will be too high. These high pressures will lead to unsafe condition because of the increased risk of spontaneous heating by the flow of air through the cracks in pillars. Recent examples of fire in solid pillars in the Jambad-Kajora area should be an eye-opener for us. We are sure that every mining man will agree that very dangerous condition may be created if this provision is enforced because in that case the Ventilation pressure will increase substantially.
  
6. As you are aware, it has been observed in the past safety week celebrations, more than 90% marks have been given with regard to ventilation of mines and the existing system has evidently been found to be more than adequate. The proposed draft Regulation regarding ventilation is therefore considered more or less based on theoretical and ideological concept than on practical consideration. Moreover, the proposed Regulation regarding ventilation as already stated, is impracticable and cannot be achieved without substantial increase in costs. Considering the debilitated economy of the Coal Industry and its extreme difficulty to obtain a fair and economic price covering the incidence of the implementation of such directives, the Federation Committee trusts that the proposed draft regarding ventilation should not be enacted.
  
7. As per our information, even in the British Regulations, where the seams being worked are much more gassy, there is no reference to the quantities of air supplied per person employed or on the velocities. We do not know why these are required. Surely, the main idea is that conditions at the working places should be safe and comfortable. Safety has already been ensured by restriction on the percentage of gas present and comfort can be ensured

by specifying the maximum wet bulb temperature reading or on Kata Thermometer readings.

8. It is, therefore, imperative that this extra regulation should not be introduced. If at all it is felt by the Government, inspite of all the above factors, that the velocities at different places should be specified, there should be as under:—

Degree of gassiness.	Place where the velocity of air is to be measured.	Velocity of air.
First degree	Immediate outlye ventilation connection	20
Second degree	(i) 4.5 metres from working face on the intake side of the brattice of partition.	15
	(ii) 7.5 metres outlye of discharge end of an air pipe ;	10
	(iii) at the maximum span of a long wall face.	40
Third degree	(i) 4.5 metres from the working face on the intake side of the brattice or partition.	25
	(ii) 7.5 metres outlye of the discharge end of an air pipe.	20
	(iii) at the maximum span of a long wall face.	50

*Clause 20—Regulation 146(i) (ii)*

In many mines of first degree of gassiness, it is not possible to work with unconnected galleries of less than 45



metres due to various factors like pillar size, water trouble and steep gradient etc. and hence this restriction of 45 metres only in mines of first degree of gassiness will require provision of bratticing in those mines which will increase the cost of production substantially without any compensation in the form of gassiness subsidy from the Coal Board in their cases. It is, therefore, recommended that the distance may be increased to 60 metres instead of 45 metres. No difficulty in working conditions is being experienced upto this distance. In our opinion, therefore, the proposed Regulation 146(7) should be re-worded as "no gallery in gassy seam of the first degree shall be driven to a distance of more than 60 metres from the nearest ventilation connection unless air is coursed upto a point within 60 metres from the face."

*Clause 21—Regulation 147:—*

If this provision is implemented, it will mean appointment of body-searchers in each shift in mines of first degree or gassiness also which will be extra financial burden on those mines without any compensation by the Coal Board. It may be noted that most of the mines in first degree of gassiness are small mines specially in the Jharia, Nirsra and Salanpur Coal Fields. The increase in cost per tonne in their cases will be noticeable. The provisions of this Regulation in the case of the mines of first degree of gassiness is not viewed necessary from the safety point also. It is, therefore, recommended that either the preamble to Regulation 147 be re-worded as "in every fiery seam or seam of second or third degree of gassiness, the following provisions shall have effect, namely "or preamble should read as "in every mine the following provisions shall have effect namely—"and sub-clause (2) be re-worded as under:—

"for the purpose of ascertaining whether any person proceeding below ground has in his possession any article as aforesaid, a competent person other than the Banksman, if any, shall be appointed in every fiery and gassy seam of 2nd or 3rd degree of gassiness, to search every person immediately before he enters the mine. The competent person shall be on duty throughout the shift and no duties other than those under this Regulation and Regulation 155(2) shall be entrusted to him. If any person is found below-ground with any contraband, he and the body-searcher shall be solely responsible for the contravention of these regulations".

If, inspite of the above, the Government is of the opinion that competent person should be appointed in seams of first degree of gassiness also, the sub-clause (2) should be reworded as under:—

"for the purpose of ascertaining whether any person proceeding below-ground has in his possession any article as aforesaid, a competent person shall be appointed in every fiery and gassy seam to search every person immediately before he enters the mine. The competent person shall be on duty throughout the shift and in case of seams of second and third degree of gassiness, no duties other than those under this Regulation and Regulation 155(2) shall be entrusted to him".

*Clause 23—Regulation 151:—*

Since the cost of F.L.P. light fixtures is very very high, it is unreasonable and also unnecessary to ask for FLP light fixtures in seams of first degree of gassiness even in the blind

ends. We, therefore, suggest that the proposed proviso be re-worded as "provided that the lighting fixtures installed in a gassy seam of the second or third degree shall comply with the provisions of Indian Electricity Rules, 1966".

*Clause 25—Regulation 166:—*

In Sub-clause (iv) of the proposed Sub-Regulation 5, no mention has been made of the number of shots to be fired by a shot firer in case of blasting with fuse and ordinary detonators. It is, therefore, suggested that the clause be re-worded as under:—

"In the case of open cast working:—

- (i) 60, if a single shot-exploder is used and
- (ii) 120, if multi-shot Exploder is used or blasting is done with the help of fuse and plain detonators.

*Clause 29—Regulation 172:—*There have been occasions now and then when a particular type of explosive is not available from the Suppliers. In such cases and to provide for such emergencies, the Regional Inspector should be empowered to permit use of other than the specified explosives in gassy seam of second degree of gassiness also subject to such conditions as he may specify for their use, otherwise the mines will have to be closed and workers laid off for this small reason. We, therefore, recommend that the proviso of Regulation 172(2) be re-worded as under:—

"provided that the Regional Inspector may by an order in writing and subject to such conditions as he may

specify therein permit in any gassy seam of the first or second degree, the use of any explosive other than the explosives specified above."

*Clause 32—Regulation 186(2), Sub-Clause (ii):—*

It is felt that it is unnecessary to provide Flame Safety Lamps to the Supervisory Staff like Fitters, Electricians etc. etc. as it will be difficult for them to carry the same in addition to the Cap Lamp and their normal tools. Also there is no reason why the persons appointed to operate any electrical machinery in the main intake or at any other place where FLP Switch Gear or Motor is not required, be provided with a Flame Safety Lamp. It may be mentioned here that Flame Safety Lamps so far available in India are of very poor standard and their cost is quite high. It is, therefore, recommended that the proposed special Clause (ii) be re-worded as "every Operator of machinery or equipment which is required to be flame proof under these Regulations, shall be provided with an approved Flame Safety Lamp".

**B. DRAFT RULES—INCOMETAX (FOURTH AMENDMENT)  
RULES, 1969.**

The Federation received a copy on 5 June of the draft Rules, published in the Gazette of India (Extra-Ordinary) dated the 24th May, 1969, to amend the existing Rules relating to the schedule of rates of depreciation allowance under the Incometax Rules, 1962 from Mr. A. Bagchi, Under Secretary, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Government of India, with a request for comments.

The Committee of the Federation considered the draft rules and in a communication, No. 1047 dated 14 July 1969, addressed to Sri A. Bagchi, offered the following comments for consideration of the Central Board of Direct Taxes:—

While appreciating that the proposed move of the Central Board of Direct Taxes to enhance the current rate of depreciation is prompted by the changing price level and the inflationary trend and the need to give adequate incentive for capital formation, the Federation, representing the Coal Industry, considers that the method of providing for depreciation should be on a straight-line method without reducing the depreciation rates, as proposed under the Draft Rules. Depreciation should, therefore, be a fixed proportion of a percentage of the cost of asset. It is an admitted fact that the straight-line method, which is simple, effective and easy to calculate, would prove more suitable for the Coal Industry as it evens out the charge of depreciation by providing a fixed percentage of the original cost in such a manner that in each year it bears on equal burden of fixed expenditure and affords data for judging comparative costs and operational efficiency.

Although the proposed rates of depreciation are to some extent an improvement on the existing rates, the Committee of the Federation feels that they are not adequate for the creation of internal resources for replacement of equipments when they reach the economic life. It appears that the rates of depreciation have been worked out on the basis of the life of the machinery as in the United Kingdom. The Federation Committee, however, points out that the standard of repairs and maintenance obtaining in the U.K. cannot be enforced in this country where, owing to the climatic and other factors, the life of the machinery has to be taken at 25% less than



what it is in the U.K. The Federation Committee trusts that this aspect will be kept in mind while finalizing the draft Rules.

The Committee of the Federation would further like to draw your attention to the fact that the Coal Industry, operating a wasting asset, should be entitled to a more liberal depreciation allowance particularly with regard to the following:—

#### LAND AND BUILDINGS:

##### (A) *Surface rights and land destroyed in opencast mining:*

In cases where collieries are required to purchase surface lands, particularly for depillaring purposes, it is submitted that the pro tanto cost, incurred for the area rendered useless by formation of goaves caused by depillaring, should be allowed to be written off. Similarly, the operation of land destroyed in opencast mining should also be written off in the year in which such land is destroyed.

##### (B) *Building:*

In cases where buildings in mining areas, whether residential or industrial, constructed over the coal-bearing lands, are demolished on account of mining operation, the entire value of such buildings as on the date of demolition should be allowed to be written off. It is observed that the current rates of depreciation varying from 2.5% to 7.5% in the case of buildings have not been increased to any extent in the proposed draft Rules.

In view of the accelerated pace of deterioration of buildings particularly in mining areas the Federation Committee suggests that the rate of depreciation allowance should be substantially increased from between 2.5% and 7.5% to between 5% and 10%.

*(C) Depreciation on small items of equipments:*

The collieries have a large number of small items of capital assets the value of which ranges between Rs. 75/- and Rs. 3000/-. In the last budget the Finance Ministry introduced a new clause in respect of depreciation of small capital assets up to Rs. 750/- by which the entire depreciation can be written off in the year in which it is installed. The Federation Committee wishes to submit that in view of the increase in the prices of small equipments the above limit of Rs. 750/- should be raised to cover equipments costing up to Rs. 3000/-.

*(D) Cost of Winning and Prospecting Coal:*

In respect of all the expenditure laid out for searching and for winning access to deposits, etc., all expenses including those on abortive outlay should be treated as revenue expenditure on the U.K. pattern.

*Extra Shift Allowance:*

The proposed amendment does not allow extra shift allowance to various industries including coal mining. It is a well-known fact that perhaps of all industries the mining, particularly coal mining, has not been able to modernize or

sophisticate its operation to the extent that other Indian industries particularly the mining industries of the developed nations have been able to achieve. The Federation Committee strongly feels that conditions in India being what they are the denial of extra shift allowance is unjustified. The following points may be considered in favour of extra shift allowance for the coal mining industry:—

- (1) The coal mining is more hazardous than other mining industries and as such deserves extra shift allowance.
- (2) Various types of accidents, such as inundations, fires, roof-falls, etc., not only affect the plant and machinery, but also life of a mine.
- (3) The cost of repairs and maintenance of plant and equipments is continuous. Moreover, loss due to breakdown is very heavy and any breakdown, even of a minor nature, may affect the entire operation of mine.
- (4) Cost of replacing machinery is so exorbitant that the owner has to rely on repairs at the cost of efficiency of the mine.
- (5) Insurance premiums on collieries, machinery, equipments and workmen's compensation are comparatively very high.

Besides, coal is a wasting asset. Generally speaking no land depreciates in value, but every ton of coal extracted reduces the value of a mine and any impending closure of a coal mine when its reserves are exhausted creates a host of problems. The raising cost of coal increases every year owing to economic conditions and various laws for welfare of

workers and safety of mines. All these factors have, compared with conditions in other industries, resulted in a negligible plough-back of the funds, thus affecting the development of the mining industry.

The coal mines are working round the clock for three shifts and to deprive the coal companies the extra shift allowance in various items, listed particularly in respect of items under IIIB(10) "Mines and Quarries", "Surface and underground machinery", etc., marked (N.E.S.A.) and on items covered by IV(1), (5) and (7) of the Draft Rules, would be extremely unfair. The Federation Committee, therefore, trusts that the Government would be pleased to allow extra shift allowance particularly for the above-mentioned items.

The Committee of the Federation would also like to draw your attention to the fact that the life of all electrical machinery particularly indigenous equipment used in the surface and underground is much shorter than that of the imported ones and, therefore, the rate of depreciation allowance for the electrical machinery should be increased at least from the current rate of 10% to at least 15%.

The Committee of the Federation urges that the problems attendant on the changing price level and inflationary trend and the need for giving 'real capital' to the industry by way of depreciation reserves should also be kept in mind and that along with depreciation the need for other incentives for internal capital formation, viz., a higher rate for development rebate and reducing the period for the sale of assets which qualify for development rebate for eight to five years, should be considered.

## VII. LOSS BY DEATH

The Committee of the Federation held an exigency meeting on 6 May 1969 to record its profound grief at the sudden death of Dr. ZAKIR HUSAIN, the highly esteemed President of India, on 3 May. The Committee adopted a resolution describing Dr. Zakir Husain as the finest embodiment of the country's secular heritage, and declared that in his death the country had lost a great educationist and humanist.

The Committee regrets to report that death exacted rather an unusually heavy toll during the year from amongst the membership of the Federation. The details are given below:

(1) SRI NAGENDRANATH MONDAL, father of Sri Dhajadhari Mondal, a Committee Member of the Federation, died on 12 January 1969. The late Sri Mondal was associated with a number of social and philanthropic organizations.

(2) SRI M. SEN GUPTA, who was the Chairman of the Federation during the Golden Jubilee year 1963, the President of the Jharia Branch and a member of the Committee for 22 years, passed away suddenly on 15 March 1969. The late Sri Sen Gupta was also the Vice-President of the Jharia Mines Board of Health for several years and was associated with a number of public bodies and philanthropic organizations.

(3) SRI DHIRAJLAL J. CHANCHANI, Barrister-at-Law, who was a member of the Committee in 1952, died suddenly on



30 April 1969. He started his career as a Barrister-at-Law in the Bombay High Court, later joining the coal business of his family.

(4) KUMAR PASUPATINATH MALLAH OF SEARSOLE, who was a Committee member of the Federation from 1949 to 1954, died on 9 September. The late Sri Maliah was closely associated with a number of social and philanthropic organizations in the Raniganj area.

(5) SRI S. D. SHETHIA, who died on 18 September 1969, was the Founder-Chairman of the Shethia group of concerns, Bharat Salt and Chemical Industries (Mundra-Kutch) and also Founder-Director of Saurashtra Cement & Chemical Industries Ltd. and Indian Coal Shipping Corporation Ltd. He was a trustee of Bhowanipore Gujarati Education Society and Trustee and Chairman of the Managing Committee of the Gujarati Education Society and Rajbai and Dharamsi Memorial Trust. His son, Sri B. S. Shethia, is a Committee member of the Federation.

(6) SRI B. L. AGARWALLA, President, Indian Colliery Owners' Association, died in Jharia on 18 November 1969. He was a leading personality in the coal industry who was equally conversant with the technical as well as commercial side of the industry. His sudden death is therefore a serious loss to the industry.

The Committee of the Federation mourned the above deaths by appropriate resolutions passed at its meetings.

V. K. Poddar, Chairman.	B. S. Shethia.
H. N. Mookherjee, Vice-Chairman.	Dev Coomar Singhi.
P. K. Nag, Jr. Vice-Chairman.	B. D. Sharma.
N. B. Lall Singha.	S. D. Neotia.
Inder Mohan Thapar.	Manmohan Kakar.
Mulchand C. Parekh.	Dhajadhari Mondal.
S. B. Goenka.	Dinendranath Dash.
Babulal M. Varma.	S. K. Saraogi.
Pritamlal A. Chanchani.	J. C. Worah.
Khagendranath Dutt.	Sriram Goenka.
S. N. Mullick.	Nirmal Kumar Jain.
Sudhindranath Mukherjee.	Subhendranath Mookherjee.
Nathmul Bhuwalka	M. Das, Secretary.

## VIII. STATISTICS

STATEMENT SHOWING RAISINGS AND DESPATCHES OF COAL  
IN INDIA DURING 1968 AND 1969.

		Raisings	
		1968	1969
January	...	6,418,039	6,867,200
February	...	6,392,317	6,265,435
March	...	6,429,766	6,583,649
April	...	6,339,940	6,877,179
May	...	6,511,047	6,911,321
June	...	5,962,826	6.43
July	...	5,965,688	6.47
August	...	5,861,887	6.32
September	...	6,014,740	6.21
October	...	6,011,540	6.31
November	...	6,450,210	6.40
December	...	6,568,400	6.73
TOTAL	...	74,926,400	78.37

Provisional

		Despatches	
		1968	1969
January	...	5,657,585	6,029,406
February	...	5,521,160	5,632,071
March	...	5,760,695	6,078,428
April	...	5,543,125	6,179,117
May	...	5,583,579	6,117,370
June	...	5,166,193	5.97
July	...	5,235,667	5.83
August	...	5,454,800	5.83
September	...	5,620,659	5.71
October	...	5,745,217	5.72
November	...	5,635,667	5.90
December	...	5,827,145	5.70
TOTAL	...	66,751,492	70.69

Provisional

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF RAISINGS BETWEEN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS IN COAL INDUSTRY

Period	Private Sector	PUBLIC SECTOR					All-India Total
		N.C.D.C.	Singareni	Madras	Rajasthan	Total	
1961	45,712,140	7,560,191	2,771,214	2,263	56,687	10,390,355	56,102,495
1962	50,382,591	7,838,288	3,118,658	174,805	35,079	11,166,830	61,549,421
1963	53,210,015	9,364,855	3,351,990	987,174	4,544	13,708,563	66,918,578
1964	50,770,097	8,164,873	3,486,708	1,567,474	1,205	13,220,260	63,990,357
1965	53,769,472	9,348,732	4,040,326	2,289,107	11,185	15,689,350	69,458,822
1966	54,529,792	9,336,404	4,102,135	2,561,006	7,178	16,006,723	70,536,515
1967	54,182,005	9,863,312	4,163,535	2,927,350	2,057	16,961,254	71,143,259
1968	55,112,510	11,720,298	3,968,712	4,121,147	3,733	19,813,890	74,926,400

STATEMENT SHOWING FIELDWISE RAISINGS, DESPATCHES  
AND STOCKS OF COAL.

*I. Raisings :*

Name of Fields	1967	1968	1969*
Andhra ...	4,163,535	3,968,712	1,514,350
Assam & Nagalands	489,698	507,747	232,878
Jammu & Kashmir	—	4,102	5,545
West Bengal ...	20,035,089	20,071,086	8,565,604
Bihar ...	30,251,731	31,795,925	14,909,433
Maharashtra ...	1,337,508	1,561,643	777,029
Orissa ...	1,171,086	1,305,053	576,630
Madhya Pradesh ...	10,765,205	11,587,252	5,080,917
Rajasthan ...	2,057	3,733	61
Madras ...	2,927,350	4,121,147	1,842,337
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	<b>71,143,259</b>	<b>74,926,400</b>	<b>33,504,784</b>

*II. Despatches :*

Name of Fields	1967	1968	1969*
Andhra ...	3,837,947	3,853,207	1,438,790
Assam & Nagalands	498,912	511,166	234,777
Jammu & Kashmir	—	7,001	8,192
West Bengal ...	18,679,918	18,811,907	8,161,259
Bihar ...	24,619,241	25,400,523	11,972,582
Maharashtra ...	1,329,708	1,519,542	746,646
Orissa ...	1,100,275	1,257,982	590,609
Madhya Pradesh	10,553,862	11,277,410	5,054,131
Rajasthan ...	3,421	3,607	69
Madras ...	2,927,560	4,109,147	1,829,337
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	<b>63,550,844</b>	<b>66,751,492</b>	<b>30,036,392</b>

\* January to May 1969.



*III. Comparative Statement Showing Stocks of Coal  
as in 1967, 1968 and 1969*

Name of Fields	1967	1968	1969*
Andhra ...	984,515	1,007,631	1,035,677
Assam & Nagalands	1,972	4,601	2,937
Jammu & Kashmir	—	8,550	5,452
West Bengal ...	1,316,421	1,274,890	1,108,461
Bihar ...	2,522,675	2,783,150	3,164,237
Maharashtra ...	27,470	49,284	65,599
Orissa ...	241,783	217,113	169,219
Madhya Pradesh ...	483,128	607,851	485,211
Rajasthan ...	101	8	—
Madras ...	—	32,000	33,000
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	<u>5,578,065</u>	<u>5,985,078</u>	<u>6,069,793</u>

\* 31 May 1969.

## ALLOTMENT AND LOADING

Comparative Daily Average Wagon Loading by Eastern and South Eastern Railways in 1968 & 1969.

	E. Rly.		S.E. Rly.		Total	
	1968	1969	1968	1969	1968	1969
January ...	4,351	4,783	1,565	1,657	5,916	6,440
February ...	4,510	5,146	1,510	1,675	6,011	6,821
March ...	4,523	4,984	1,466	1,642	5,989	6,626
April ...	4,378	4,741	1,526	1,686	5,904	6,427
May ...	4,338	4,589	1,437	1,695	5,775	6,284
June ...	4,017	4,436	1,325	1,646	5,342	6,082
July ...	4,064	4,644	1,484	1,622	5,548	6,266
August ...	4,243	4,601	1,391	1,614	5,634	6,215
September ...	4,773	4,845	1,528	1,734	6,301	6,579
October ...	4,801	4,778	1,526	1,524	6,327	6,302
November ...	4,384	4,813	1,583	1,509	5,967	6,322
December ...	4,469	4,618	1,603	1,555	6,072	6,173
Average of the year ...	4,404	4,748	1,495	1,630	5,899	6,378

AVERAGE DAILY ALLOTMENT AND LOADING OF COAL WAGONS IN WEST BENGAL AND BIHAR COALFIELDS

Year	Allotment	Loading
1959	4,039	4,013
1960	4,474	4,335
1961	4,902	4,768
1962	5,268	5,092
1963	5,733	5,620
1964	5,439	5,332
1965	5,918	5,793
1966	5,864	5,784
1967	5,958	5,792
1968	6,026	5,899
1969	6,522	6,378

GRADEWISE RAISINGS IN WEST BENGAL AND BIHAR COALFIELDS (1963-1969)

Grade	WEST BENGAL					BIHAR				
	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969*	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969*
Coking	449,012	461,402	505,254	497,754	199,439	16,549,386	16,127,853	15,441,906	16,372,447	7,654,925
Non-Coking :										
Selected 'A'	4,090,991	3,875,629	4,230,090	4,039,172	1,608,421	219,147	62,457	308,789	442,423	247,102
Selected 'B'	2,470,699	2,315,295	2,205,298	2,283,944	991,699	352,226	514,487	360,110	911,277	157,152
Grade I	10,596,934	10,593,433	10,805,268	11,159,517	4,814,543	6,164,809	5,940,718	5,721,184	5,949,120	2,811,028
Grade II	1,692,315	1,961,757	1,722,651	1,567,982	673,760	2,820,914	3,217,183	2,960,605	3,031,390	1,338,280
Grade IIIA	161,191	102,375	136,511	101,049	64,203	2,050,481	2,383,047	2,278,646	2,256,222	958,657
Grade IIIB	240,116	191,581	232,374	198,525	111,192	2,427,633	2,692,391	2,600,953	2,777,073	1,322,885
Non-Grading	282,042	265,210	197,643	223,143	102,347	422,265	456,957	579,638	653,973	419,404
TOTAL	19,983,300	19,766,682	20,035,089	20,071,086	8,565,604	31,006,861	31,395,093	30,251,731	31,795,925	14,909,439

\*January to May 1969

## GRADEWISE DESPATCHES IN WEST BENGAL AND BIHAR COALFIELDS (1965-1969)

Grade	WEST BENGAL					BIHAR				
	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969*	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969*
Coking	444,396	442,182	501,541	467,812	170,902	15,005,502	14,246,260	13,780,775	14,509,714	6,674,342
Non-Coking:										
Selected 'A'	4,014,958	3,772,080	4,073,091	3,920,839	1,555,996	220,852	62,481	903,863	426,549	251,631
Selected 'B'	2,413,254	2,228,134	2,101,139	2,243,093	953,807	345,575	522,799	966,928	277,589	133,219
Grade I	10,168,946	10,052,574	10,310,665	10,712,383	4,557,372	6,137,899	5,669,063	5,477,239	5,678,913	2,701,575
Grade II	1,508,776	1,705,346	1,429,439	1,316,297	716,905	2,075,562	2,305,271	2,315,908	2,124,715	1,008,613
Grade IIIA	75,077	28,819	115,852	39,839	50,121	870,801	962,571	990,525	962,963	382,142
Grade IIIB	211,651	130,090	142,954	111,644	156,156	1,297,046	1,321,674	1,384,003	1,360,680	821,060
Non-Grading	—	—	5,237	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	18,837,258	18,359,225	18,679,918	18,811,907	8,161,259	25,953,237	25,090,119	24,619,241	25,400,523	11,972,582

\*January to May 1969.

GRADEWISE RAISINGS, DESPATCHES AND STOCKS OF COAL IN WEST BENGAL  
AND BIHAR FIELDS DURING THE YEAR 1968

GRADE :	RAISINGS		DESPATCHES		STOCKS	
	West Bengal	Bihar	West Bengal	Bihar	West Bengal	Bihar
Coking ...	497,754	15,372,447	467,812	14,569,714	5,189	818,769
Non-Coking:						
Selected 'A'	4,039,172	442,423	3,920,839	426,549	126,527	20,432
Selected 'B'	2,283,944	311,277	2,243,093	277,589	121,221	48,334
Grade 'I'	11,159,517	5,949,120	10,712,383	5,678,913	502,207	542,836
Grade 'II'	1,567,982	3,031,390	1,316,297	2,124,715	279,520	344,985
Grade 'IIIA'	101,049	2,256,222	39,839	962,363	37,506	333,246
Grade 'IIIB'	198,525	2,777,073	111,644	1,360,680	154,615	455,739
Non-Grading ...	223,143	655,973	—	—	48,105	218,809
TOTAL	20,071,086	31,795,925	18,811,907	25,400,523	1,274,890	2,783,150



GRADEWISE RAISINGS, DESPATCHES AND STOCKS OF COAL IN WEST BENGAL  
AND BIHAR FIELDS DURING THE YEAR 1969

GRADE:	RAISINGS*		DESPATCHES*		STOCKS*	
	West Bengal	Bihar	West Bengal	Bihar	West Bengal	Bihar
Coking ...	199,439	7,654,925	170,902	6,674,342	5,774	1,051,978
Non-Coking:						
Selected 'A'	1,608,421	247,102	1,555,995	251,631	138,433	18,351
Selected 'B'	991,699	157,152	953,807	133,219	96,727	48,257
Grade 'T' ...	4,814,543	2,811,028	4,557,372	2,701,575	435,214	529,173
Grade 'II'	673,760	1,338,280	716,905	1,008,613	227,793	382,372
Grade 'IIIA'	64,203	958,657	50,121	382,142	23,888	489,490
Grade 'IIIB'	111,192	1,322,885	156,156	821,060	147,292	525,284
Non-Grading ...	102,347	419,404	—	—	33,340	139,332
Total	8,565,604	14,909,433	8,161,259	11,972,582	1,108,461	3,164,237

\* January to May 1969

GRADEWISE (COKING) RAISINGS, DESPATCHES AND STOCKS  
OF COAL IN WEST BENGAL AND BIHAR FIELDS  
DURING THE YEAR 1968.

(In million tonnes)

Grade	Raisings	Dispatches	Stocks
'A'	0.362	0.351	0.009
B	0.178	0.171	0.012
C	1.042	0.987	0.016
D	0.931	0.873	0.057
E	2.459	2.289	0.032
F	3.840	3.701	0.253
G	2.548	2.389	0.099
H	2.120	1.767	0.045
HH	3.390	2.509	0.300
TOTAL	16.870	15.037	0.823

## TRENDS IN PRODUCTION OF SOFT COKE AND HARD COKE

Year	Soft Coke	HARD COKE		
		Bee-Hive	Bye-Product	Total
1960-61	1,754,148	186,976	497,433	684,409
1961-62	1,844,808	277,408	588,404	865,812
1962-63	2,152,660	317,752	602,332	920,084
1963-64	2,333,773	452,324	624,913	1,077,367
1964-65	2,244,993		614,139	1,106,539
1965-66	2,727,748	552,340	593,773	1,146,713
1966-67	2,918,357	566,000	625,011	1,191,011
1967-68	2,828,421	520,632	612,194	1,181,790
1968-69				
April '68	197,468	47,379	46,038	93,417
May '68	199,935	43,279	48,345	91,624
June '68	192,058	38,654	46,743	85,397
July '68	273,413	51,599	47,750	99,349
August '68	237,957	49,907	47,932	97,839
September '68	288,974	42,775	48,845	91,620
October '68	285,373	39,405	49,771	89,176
November '68	241,788	50,893	50,025	100,918
December '68	242,077	53,449	52,681	106,130
January '69	256,558	31,704	57,579	89,283
February '69	11,610	51,883	56,666	108,549
Total for eleven months	2,627,251	500,927	552,375	1,053,302

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