

(f) what are relief measures which have been adopted so far by Government?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 96.]

(f) The following relief measures have been taken by the Administration:

1. (i) Sungrass and bamboos issued free of royalty for purposes of shelter and house-building.
- (ii) Cash grants amounting to Rs. 4,000 distributed for purposes of food.
- (iii) Existing dispensaries re-inforced and medicines supplied free.
- (iv) Fair price shops opened in badly affected areas.
2. The following amounts have been sanctioned by the Government of India:
  - (i) Rs. 50,000, for gratuitous relief.
  - (ii) Rs. 3 lakhs, for test relief works.
  - (iii) Rs. 2 lakhs, for grant of Tac-cavi loans to agriculturist sufferers.
3. The question of sanctioning a sum of Rs. 50,000 for house-building loans for the sufferers under the low-income Group Housing Scheme is under consideration.

#### Kulti Works

- \*810. { Shri Nagi Reddy;  
Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan;  
Shrimati Renu Chakravarty;  
Shri Muhammed Elias;

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd.,

have closed down blast furnace and coke oven batteries at Kulti;

(b) whether this was done with the prior approval of the Government;

(c) whether any notice was given to the workers about the closure; and

(d) the effect of such closures in respect of (i) production and (ii) employment?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The closure was effected with the knowledge of Government.

(c) Yes.

(d) (i) There will be a loss in production of 10,000 tons of pig iron per month but this will be more than compensated by the production of the additional blast furnaces of the Company

(ii) Most of the workers will be transferred to Burnpur with continuity of service. Full retrenchment benefits will be available for workers who voluntarily resign or who get employment in the Hindustan Steel Private Limited.

#### Pay Scales of Army Officers

- \*811. { Shri Sugandhi;  
Shri U. C. Patnaik;

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating any scheme to improve the pay scales and service conditions of the Junior Commissioned Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be finalised?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.