

motion, the Ministry of Foreign Trade endeavours to keep a continuous watch over the whole field of export promotion and tries to devise remedial measures as and when necessary.

(c) So far as the shortage of raw materials is concerned, steps have already been taken to arrange for additional imports of steel. So far as shipping difficulties are concerned, Government is endeavouring to set up an effective consultation machinery between the shippers and the shipping interests in the form of Shippers' Councils, and efforts are steadily being made to secure reasonable and fair freight rates as well as to increase the strength of the Indian Merchant Marine.

Construction of Eight Dams for Damodar Valley Project to prevent destruction from Floods

1341. SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU-DHURI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether originally foreign experts formulated a blueprint for the construction of eight dams for the Damodar Valley Project to make it perfectly effective in preventing death and destruction from floods for all time to come but Indian authorities did not agree with that and only four dams were constructed which have proved to be quite ineffective; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to make the Damodar Valley Corporation Project really effective on the one hand and to resuscitate the dried and shallow canals and rivers for smooth drainage of any surplus waters into the sea on the other?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The construction of eight storage reservoirs was proposed in the preliminary memorandum prepared by a foreign expert for the unified development of the Damodar Valley. After considering the financial implications of the proposal and on technical considerations, a decision was taken to construct four storage reservoirs which would be sufficient to cover all floods recorded in the last 100 years. The damage that is occurring in the Lower Damodar Valley because of floods cannot

be attributed to the lesser storage available than earlier envisaged but is mainly due to drainage congestion in the Lower Valley. A proposal for construction of embankments and dredging of the river channel in places in the Lower Valley is under examination.

Police Firing in West Bengal

1342. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU:
SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) on how many occasions the police fired upon the people, till date, since the imposition of the President's rule in West Bengal;

(b) how many persons died and how many received injuries as a result of the Police firing;

(c) on how many occasions the C.R.P. personnel resorted to firing in West Bengal during this period;

(d) a list containing names and particulars of persons who succumbed to the Police firing; and

(e) whether any compensation has been sanctioned to the families of persons who died of the Police firing and, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF STATE, DEPARTMENTS OF ELECTRONICS AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a), (b), (d) and (e). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) During the period between the promulgation of President's Rule and 10-11-70, the C.R.P. personnel had to resort to firing in West Bengal on 37 occasions.

Police Firing in West Bengal

1343. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU:
SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that