

Directive to exclude Contract Labour from Membership of Unions

975. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given a directive to exclude contract labour from the membership of Unions at the time of verification in the year 1976;

(b) whether such a directive issued covers all categories of workers or only for mining industry and iron-ore mines workers; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). In accordance with the Procedure for Verification of Membership of Unions for the purpose of recognition under the Code of Discipline, only those workers are included in the lists of the unions who were on the Muster Roll of the management on the date of reckoning. This criterion is generally applied in the case of all categories of industries and in all States except where recognition of unions is regulated by a statute. Certain instructions/clarifications are issued to verification officers with regard to this Procedure from time to time.

Passenger-cum-Cargo Service to New Mangalore Port

976. SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a pressing demand for regular passenger or passenger-cum-cargo service to New Mangalore Port from Bombay; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): (a) Some requests have been received for introduction of passenger-cum-cargo service between Bombay and New Mangalore Port.

(b) Quantum of cargo and number of passengers available show that such a service would not be viable. It may be mentioned that though such a service was in operation in the early last decade, it had to be closed down in 1969 due to continued heavy losses.

Diversification of Durgapur Steel Plant's Production

977. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Durgapur Steel Plant's losses are continuing due to uneconomic prices of wheel and axle sets supplied to the Railways;

(b) whether some wheel and axle sets are still being imported from abroad at much higher prices; and

(c) if so, action, if any, being taken to revise the prices of indigenously made sets or to diversify Durgapur Steel Plant's production pattern?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The loss suffered by Durgapur Steel Plant on manufacture of wheelsets in 1974-75 and 1975-76 was Rs. 557 lakhs and Rs. 531 lakhs respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir. But these relate to the orders placed by the Railways, in 1975. No fresh orders have been placed or are likely to be placed in 1976-77 by the Railways for import.

(c) Regarding revision of the prices of indigenously made wheel sets, the matter has been taken up with Railways.