

Secunderabad

31. M/s. Ravi Machineries, Lakhmi Nagar Vijayawada-II.

Bangalore

32. M/s. R. Kuppuswamy, Bangalore.

33. M/s. Vithal Balwant Hirwardhar, Raviwarpeth, Belgam-2.

Coimbatore

34. M/s. India Co., Ltd., Tiruchirappalli.

Total number of Consignment Agents-34.

Aid to Lesotho

4288. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U. N. Security Council had unanimously recommended to member countries to provide \$ 100.8 million aid to Lesotho to enable it to withstand any pressure from South Africa to recognise the independence of Transkei, a South African created ethnic area; and

(b) if so, what assistance India has provided in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir. But the figure is \$ 113 million.

(b) We announced as our contribution a sum of Rs. 1 million in form of commodity and services from India to this special fund at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London in June, 1977.

Territorial Sea

4289. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India made a non-committal statement at the Law of the Sea Conference on 24th June, 1977 to review a Bangladesh proposal for delimiting its 'baseline' on the northern part of the Bay of Bengal on a liberal basis;

(b) whether Bangladesh also lined up Islamic States to support its proposal at the discussion of the Committee dealing with Territorial Sea issues; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Indian Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) to (c). On 23rd June, 1977, the Indian delegate to the Law of the Sea Conference made a statement on the proposal made by Bangladesh to draw straight baselines in special circumstances joining points at sea near their coast. In his statement, the Indian delegate stated that no such baselines should be drawn in demarcating the maritime boundaries and in measuring the zones of national jurisdiction such as the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf. Several countries including some Muslim States spoke in favour of the Bangladesh proposal.

Expansion of Ballabgarh Telephone Exchange

4290. SHRI DHARAM VIR VASISHT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to expand the Ballabgarh telephone exchange under Delhi District; and

(b) whether the Government has under consideration the consolidation of Ballabgarh, Badarpur and Faridabad Telephone Exchanges into one Exchange system; if so, the dead line for the same together with the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA): (a) Plans are in hand to replace the present 500 lines exchange at Ballabgarh by a 1500 line main automatic exchange. Land for construction of the building for the new exchange has been taken over in April, 1977. Building plans are being drawn up. Auto exchange equipment is also being arranged to be supplied to match with the progress of construction of the building.

(b) No, Sir.

Waiving off Regulations at Chasnala Colliery which caused accident

4291. **SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV:** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Directorate General of Mines' Safety had, on the basis of the enquiry report filed for Chasnala accident occurred on 27th December, 1975, waived certain important provisions of Regulations in the area where accident took place without any request from the management;

(b) if so, what action has been taken against those who waived off the important provisions of the Safety Regulations;

(c) whether the officials of the management of Directorate General of Mines' Safety had any knowledge or were they negligent in not having the proper knowledge of the extension of old water logged working which caused the accident; and

(d) how did such a situation arise?

THE MINISTER OF PARIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) There is no mention, in the Report of the Court of Inquiry appointed to enquire into the

causes of and circumstances attending the accident that occurred in Chasnala Colliery on 27th December, 1975, of any waiver of any important provisions of the Regulations having been made by the officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety in the area where the accident took place.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Court of Inquiry did not hold any officials of the Directorate General of Mines Safety responsible for negligence or for not having knowledge of the extensions of the old water logged working.

(d) The Court of Inquiry has observed that the accident in Chasnala Colliery on 27th December, 1975 must be considered to have occurred due to the carelessness of some of the officers of the mine management.

Aluminium Industry hit by Power cut

4292. **SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Aluminium factories have been badly hit by the drastic power cut during recent months;

(b) if so, the extent of the power cut in major industries and the expected production loss thereby; and

(c) the immediate measures being taken to ensure the power supply to these units?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The maximum power cuts imposed by the State Electricity Boards on aluminium smelters in recent months are as indicated below: