

Removal of forests for irrigation and Power Projects

5911. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the delay in clearance of proposals for removal of forests for new Irrigation and Power Projects is causing delay in execution of these projects for quite long time; and

(b) if so, the number of proposals so far received from Andhra Pradesh and clearance communicated by the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) and (b) Department of Forest and Wild Life have intimated that out of 30 proposals received from Andhra Pradesh from 1980 onwards, 14 have been cleared so far. In most of the other cases, clearances could not be given, as additional information sought from the State Government, has not been furnished.

Integration of all Categories of Port Works Under a United Control

5912. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to integrate all categories of workers, whether of Port Trusts or of Dock Labour Board into one labour force and to place them under a unified control;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps, if any, taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) In May, 1975, the Government of India set up a Committee to

study, *inter-alia*, the deployment of port and dock labour and the arrangements for their co-ordinated functioning in the context of the need to treat cargo handling from the transit shed to the ships' holds and *vice-versa* either as a single system or a unified operation and to suggest suitable changes. The Committee recommended abolition of Dock Labour Boards and institutionalisation of cargo handling arrangements under the Port Trusts. This proposal was considered by the Government. It was considered that implementation of the proposal would involve considerable difficulties in integrating workers employed under two organisations namely Port Trusts and Dock Labour Boards, with different pay scales and terms of employment and entrusting entire cargo handling operations to Port Trusts. It was, therefore, decided to have a further study into the matter by an Officer, having intimate knowledge of port working. The Officer recommended that the existing Dock Labour Boards should operate as the sole "Labour supplying and labour deploying agency" for all labour on ships as well as on shore, although different sets of labour would remain under different employers with different service conditions. This recommendation was not found practicable.

However, it was decided to have a beginning with regard to introduction of integrated cargo handling labour at Paradip, Tuticorin and New Mangalore Ports and Haldia Dock Complex where no Dock Labour Boards have been set up. Certain alternative arrangements were worked out at these ports on an experimental basis. In the meantime, new wage settlement dated 11.4.1984 with the Federations of port and dock workers contained a provision for setting up of a Committee to consider demands for institutionalisation/decasualisation of cargo handling workers at these ports under the Dock Labour Boards or tripartite bodies or as direct employees of the Port Trust. The Committee has already submitted its report but no final decision in this regard has been taken so far.