

(a) whether Government of West Bengal have requested the Centre to sanction money for assisting people affected by recent cyclone and flood; and

(b) if so, how much money has been sanctioned ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade Unions in Steel Plants

*223. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bokaro, TISCO, Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur Steel Plants have multiple trade unions;

(b) if so, since when these labour unions are working;

(c) how many new labour unions were given recognition during the last five years in each plant and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to reduce the multiplicity of unions ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The oldest labour union recognised in a steel plant in India was in TISCO. This was recognised in 1925 under the name of Labour Association. In other plants, unions were recognised at later dates.

(c) No new labour union has been given recognition during the last five years in any of the steel plants.

(d) The policy being followed in steel plants is that collective bargaining at the plant level is done only with the recognised union except in Durgapur where the forum bargaining pattern is in vogue, in pursuance of a tripartite agreement. Under the Trade Unions Act 1926, any seven or more workmen may apply for registration of the Trade

Union to the Registrar. In view of the existing provision of this Act, it is not possible to reduce the multiplicity of unions.

National Debate on Important Issues

1966. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to call for a national debate on important issues such as need for second channel on T. V. and Radio exclusively for the State Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Increase in House Rent in Delhi

1967. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the house rents in Delhi are increasing by leaps and bounds;

(b) whether Government intend to take any measures to check this increase in rents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c). The increase in the rents of houses in Delhi is a general phenomenon linked with overall price rise including increase in the cost of construction. In addition to the efforts for holding price line, the Government is encouraging construction of private/cooperative houses, undertakings and increasing substantially, the pace of construction of houses by governmental agencies like Delhi Development Authority, etc.