

(vi) The degrading environment of the tribal areas to be improved.

(c) and (d) : Yes, Sir The recommendations of the Working Group are acceptable to the Ministry.

Supply of Iron Ore to Japan at Reduced Prices

185. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to latest agreement with Japanese buyers, Japan will now get iron ore at 25 percent of reduced prices than 1982-83 ; and

(b) if so, what is the amount of loss that National Mineral Development Corporation will suffer due to this factor and how do Government propose to offset it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) and (b) : Due to the continued recession in the world steel industry, an over-supply situation in the iron-ore market and the resultant price reduction in the Japanese market in two successive years, the 1984-85 sale prices of iron ore to Japan were about 23% less in U.S. dollar terms as compared to these obtained in 1982-83.

However on account of the steep appreciation of the U.S. dollar the increase in the rupee realisation will substantially mitigate the loss. As the foreign exchanges are fluctuating widely even now, the affect of the lower dollar prices on the average unit value realisation in rupee terms and on the working result of NMDC will be known by the end of the financial year.

Exchange of Fire between Bangladesh Rifles and Indian Border Security Forces at Dohokhola

186. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS

be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bangladesh Rifles and the Indian Border Security had an exchange of fire at Dohokhola, a border village near Sikharpur in Karimpur Police Station area, about 100 Kilometres from Krishnanagar on 1 January, 1985 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any protest has been lodged with Bangladesh Government in this regard ; and

(d) if so, outcome thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to avoid such clashes in future in order to maintain friendly relations with Bangladesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Head Constable of BSF challenged some civilians cutting green pulse saplings inside the Indian territory on 1.1.85. He challenged their bonafides and, on their attack, was injured and become unconscious. When he was being dragged by the miscreants towards Bangladesh, the Indian cultivators intervened and rescued him. The BSF Commander from the river bank on the side in a loud voice requested the Bangladesh Rifles for a flag meeting but the Bangladesh Rifles fired upon the BSF. The BSF had to return the fire in self-defence. No casualty took place.

(c) A protest was lodged by the DIG-BSF, South Bengal on 2.1.1985.

(d) Whilt reply to our protest is awaited, a counterprotest was lodged by Bangladesh Rifles which has been replied to. A flag meeting was held by DIG South Bengal of BSF with Sector Commander of Bangladesh Rifles, Khulna along with Commandant and other concerned officers of both sides on 2.1.85 to defuse the tension and to restore normalcy. Senior officers have