

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) and (b). According to the 1971 Census agricultural workers in India number about 47.5 million. Their problems, as highlighted from time to time by various forums and Rural Labour Enquires, are, generally, low wages and the resulting low standard of living, unemployment and underemployment and lack of Organisation.

(c) To ameliorate conditions of life of the weaker section in rural areas, including agricultural workers, 160 Small Farmers' Development Agencies/ Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Projects were functioning in the country during 1976-77, the main emphasis in the projects being on crop husbandry which includes Intensive Agricultural Multiple Cropping, introduction of high yielding varieties, development of minor irrigation, soil conservation, land development etc. These Agencies have also been authorised to implement the usual animal husbandry programmes like distribution of milch cattle, poultry, goat and sheep rearing, piggery etc. The problems of labour in the unorganised sector, including agricultural workers were discussed at the recent Tripartite Labour Conference held on 6-7th May, 1977. The general consensus at the Conference was that, having regard to the various complex issues involved, a Special Conference be convened to consider the problems relating to unorganised rural labour, including, agricultural workers, and the nature of subjects to be discussed and nature of participants to the proposed Conference settled in consultation with the interests concerned, including the State Governments/ Union Territories, Central Organisations of Workers and Employers etc. The suggestions received from these interests are being examined and steps are being taken to convene the proposed Special Conference soon to discuss the problems of agricultural workers.

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White Paper on Farakka Project Agreement

621. **SHRI C. R. MAHATA:**
SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state whether Government propose to issue a White Paper on the Farakka Project Agreement with Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): The Agreement on sharing of the Ganga waters at Farakka and on augmenting its flows has been placed before the Lok Sabha on 14th November 1977. While laying the Agreement on the Table of the House, the Prime Minister made a statement. In view of this, the Government of India do not intend to issue a White Paper on the Agreement.

Single Price Policy for Metals

624. **SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM:** Will the Minister of **STEEL AND MINES** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce single price policy for metals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Location of Large Deposits of Bauxite in Semalia Sub-Tehsil in Rewa

625. **SHRI Y. P. SHASTRI:** Will the Minister of **STEEL AND MINES** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has located a large deposit of bauxite in Semalia Sub-Tehsil in Rewa District of Madhya Pradesh; and