

complaint is examined promptly and rebate sanctioned, where justified.

Transfer of Refractories in Raniganj to Steel Ministry

7528. SHRI ROBIN SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has agreed to a proposal of West Bengal Government to transfer the Raniganj group of Refractories to Steel Ministry as its captive industry, from the Ministry of Industry; and

(b) if so, how long it will take to implement the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES, (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b). The proposal is receiving attention of the Government of India.

Officials who visited North Korea

7529. SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number and designation of the officials of the Government of India who have visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), during the last two years for various purposes other than diplomatic assignments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): A Trade Delegation from India visited Democratic People's Republic of Korea from May 10 to 14, 1977 and concluded the annual trade protocol between India and DPRK. The delegation consisted of the following:

(a) Shri Prem Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce—Leader.

(b) Shri A. K. Ahuja, Joint Divisional Manager, MMTC—Member.

(c) Shri V. N. Singh, Regional Manager, (Counsellor), STC Representative, Embassy of India, Moscow—Member.

Payment of House Rent Allowances to P & T Employees in Mizoram

7530. DR. R. ROTHUAMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that some Central Government Employees in A.I.R., SIB, Field Publicity P&T (Postal Wing) and General Manager, P&T (Maintenance) working in Mizoram have been given 'House Rent Allowance' whereas some Central Government Employees in P&T Engineering Wing, (Tele-com.) P&T Telegraphic Wing, Central Excise and L.C. working in Mizoram have been deprived of the benefit of the House Rent Allowance;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to correct the irregularities in the matter of the House Rent Allowance; and

(c) if not, whether he proposes to look into the matter with a view to remove the anomalies in order to ensure payment of the said House Rent Allowance to all Central Government Employees equally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) to (c). Under the present orders of the Government House Rent Allowance to Central Government Employees posted to Mizoram is admissible only to the staff having All India Transfer liability. Due to incorrect interpretation of the order some P&T units were paying H.R.A. to their staff not entitled to it. Action is being taken to rectify the irregularity.

Stagnations in the Cadre of Junior Engineer of Telecommunication Wing

7531. SHRI YASHWANT BOROLE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15,000 junior engineers of telecommunication wing of P&T Department protested against stagnations in the cadre;