

Princes and Victoria Docks, it takes about 10 days before a ship gets a berth. At Idira Dock the waiting period is around 5 weeks.

Maharashtra Bill for Providing Unemployment Doles

572. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have decided not to give its clearance to the Bill passed by Maharashtra Legislature for providing unemployment doles;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government's decision has been conveyed to State Government; and

(d) if so, what is the State Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) to (d). The matter is under consideration.

Jute stock holdings of different mills

573. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR DHARA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jute Control Order issued by Central Government in December 1977 to bring about equilibrium in the jute stock holdings of different mills, has not produced its desired results, particularly on the trading position of the Jute Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to achieve the desired results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MATI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b). In

order to ensure a more rational distribution of the available supply of raw jute amongst mills, the Jute Commissioner had issued an Order on 9-12-1977 under clause 9 of Jute (Licensing and Control) Order, 1961, directing all jute mills to bring down their stock holdings of raw jute to 8 weeks' consumption level within specified dates.

On a review of price and availability situation, this statutory limit on maximum stock holdings of raw jute by mills was progressively reduced to 4 weeks' consumption level. As a result of this measure a number of jute mills having a higher level of stocks has gradually declined and mills having lower stocks of raw jute have generally been able to acquire stocks from market to sustain their production of jute goods. This measure has nothing to do with improving trading activities of Jute Corporation of India.

Official Opening of Haldia Port

574. SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the official opening of the Haldia Port which started trial run in February, 1977 has not been done as yet;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action Government are taking to make the port fully navigable upto the declared level;

(c) whether Government are aware that a huge amount is being wasted on demurrage charges for enormous delay in unloading the accumulated ships in few other ports; and

(d) the action Government are actively considering to improve the Haldia port and to reduce Government expenditure on demurrage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) There has been no

official opening ceremony for the commissioning of the Haldia Dock System, since all the facilities contemplated for Haldia are not yet operational. However, the Ore, Coal and general cargo berths at Haldia have been in operation since 28-2-1977.

(b) To achieve the declared navigable depths, dredging of the shipping channel leading to Haldia was started in 1973 and has been continuing since then. Extensive river training works have been undertaken in the actuary. The recommendations of Indian and foreign experts on improving the depths of the channel are currently being studied by the Calcutta Port Trust.

(c) and (d). Government are aware of the losses to the economy resulting from delays in unloading ships in the ports. Measures under consideration to tackle this situation include diversion of traffic to other ports, mid-stream unloading into barges wherever it is feasible, augmentation of the strength of shore labour and improvement of the clearing facilities by rail and road. Discussions also have been held at the highest level with concerned agencies like Railways, State Trading Corporation and others to expedite the unloading and clearance of cargo in ports.

Durgapur-Calcutta Highway

575. SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN:
Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the very important long awaiting Durgapur-Calcutta Highway has not shown any appreciable progress during the last five years in spite of land acquisition and other formalities having been completed long back;

(b) the reasons for so much delay; and

(c) when it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) to (c). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to Calcutta-Palsit Section of Durgapur Calcutta Expressway nationalised as part of N.H. 2 in July, 1975. It has not been possible to take up work on this Section due to constraints on financial resources as the project is expected to need a heavy investment. Its taking up and completion would depend upon the availability of funds.

Action on Report of Shah Commission

576. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the duties of a Special Officer, who has been appointed as head of the Special Cell in C.B.I., which has been set up to prosecute Mrs. Indira Gandhi;

(b) why no action has been taken so far on the report of Shah Commission, which was received by the Government a few months back;

(c) what is the opinion of the Law Ministry over each recommendation of Shah Commission Report about Mrs. Gandhi;

(d) what specific steps Government propose to take to remove the impression of the people that the Government has been reluctant to take any action on it; and

(e) the names of the Officers against whom Government propose to take departmental as well as criminal action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) A Special Investigating Unit has been set up in the CBI to inquire/investigate, deal with and take all other necessary action in relation to cases requiring enquiries/investigation arising out