

(b) and (c). The various aspects of the matter are being considered. It is not possible to say at present when the decision will be reached.

Discussion held with Foreign Minister of Thailand

689. SHRI D. AMAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Minister of Thailand visited India in June, 1978 and had discussion with the Indian officials; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The primary purpose of the visit was to sign the Indo-Thai Agreement on delimitation of sea-bed boundary in the Andaman Sea and the tri-lateral Agreement between India, Indonesia and Thailand on the determination of the Trijunction and the Extension of their Sea-bed Boundaries to that point. These agreements were signed. The visit also provided an opportunity for a very useful exchange of views between the two Foreign Ministers on matters of common interest, which covered bilateral relations, regional situation as well as international issues.

Fall in Production of Steel in Orissa

690. SHRI D. AMAT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to acute shortage of power and coal in April and May, 1978 the steel industry is in crisis and there has been a shortfall of steel production; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to meet the situation and achieve targets?

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

(a) The production of steel at the integrated steel plants during the months of April and May, 1978, was adversely affected mainly on account of power shortage and frequent restrictions/fluctuations in the supply of power and certain problems relating to the supplies of coking coal, both in terms of quantity and quality. The loss of production of saleable steel on account of power difficulties is estimated at 64,140 tonnes.

(b) Close and constant liaison is being maintained with the Ministry of Energy, DVC authorities, other Electricity Boards, Coal supplying agencies and the Railways so as to secure maximum supplies of power and good quality coal. A proposal to import one million tonnes of low-ash coking coal in order to supplement indigenous supplies is also being processed. Since the power problems are acute in the steel plants, served by DVC in the Eastern region, schemes for augmenting inplant power generating capacity at Durgapur and Bokaro Steel Plants are also under considerations.

Discussions held with Rumanian President

691. SHRI D. AMAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that President of Rumania visited India in the last week of May, 1978 and had discussions; and

(b) if so, the nature of discussions and the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) The Prime Minister discussed with President of Rumania a wide range of subjects, both international and bilateral. Held in a frank and cordial atmosphere, these talks have generated a better appreciation of each other's points of view.

Technical Posts in ICMR

692. DR. SARADISH ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) number of technical posts created in the Headquarter's office of the ICMR and its permanent institutes including the Blood Group Reference Centre, Bombay, after the appointment of the present D.G. ICMR, and the name of the persons selected and prior posts held by them;

(b) how and in what manner the need and justification for the above posts were considered; and

(c) how the selection Committees were constituted and whether the recommendations of the selection Committees were approved by the Executive Committee of the ICMR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

कृषि श्रमिकों को न्यूनतम मजदूरी देने के लिये कानून

693. श्री केशवराव घोडगे : क्या संसदीय कार्य तथा श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्र सरकार का विचार कृषि श्रमिकों को न्यूनतम मजदूरी देने के लिये कानून बनाने का है;

(ख) देश में ऐसे कितने राज्य हैं जिन्होंने इस समय ऐसे कानून बनाये हुए हैं;

(ग) क्या केन्द्र सरकार ने इस बारे में राज्य सरकारों की प्रतिक्रियाएं जानने का प्रयास किया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उनकी उम्र वाले में क्या प्रतिक्रियाएं हैं ?

संसदीय कार्य तथा श्रम मंत्री (श्री रवीन्द्र वर्मा) : (क) पहले से ही एक केन्द्रीय कानून अर्थात् न्यूनतम मजदूरी अधिनियम, 1948 विद्यमान है, जिसमें कृषि श्रमिकों के लिये न्यूनतम मजदूरी दरों का निर्धारण/संशोधन करने की व्यवस्था है। इस कानून के अधीन केन्द्रीय सरकार तथा राज्य सरकारों द्वारा अपने-अपने अधिकांश क्षेत्रों में न्यूनतम मजदूरी-दरों निर्धारित की गई हैं और उनमें समय-समय पर संशोधन किया जाता है।

(ख) से (घ). भाग (क) के उत्तर को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

नस बीमारा जोड़ना

694. श्री केशवराव घोडगे : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत वर्ष में देश में ऐसे मामले कितने हैं जिनमें घ्रापात स्थिति के दौरान जिनकी जबरन नसबंदी की गई थी उन पुरुषों की नस जोड़ने के प्रयत्न किये गये हैं; और

(ख) नस जोड़े हुए पुरुषों की, राज्य-वार, मृत्यु कितनी-कितनी है ?