

Proposal to resettle former East Bengal refugees in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4041 SHRI SARAT KAR Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to resettle some of the former East Bengal refugees in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and

(b) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL) (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

Scarcity of Cement in Assam

4042 SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether cement has been endemically scarce in Assam from the time of Independence,

(b) whether this had happened mainly due to transport bottleneck; and

(c) what steps have been taken to increase the supply of cement to Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV) (a) to (c) Except for brief period, cement has always been in short supply in the country, as the demand had exceeded the availability. Scarcity of cement in Assam has, therefore, been a part of the country-wide shortage for the commodity. In addition, supplies to the States were further affected due to rail movement problems due to trans-shipment bottleneck at Bongaigaon and restricted traffic *via* Farakka.

However, a number of steps have been taken from time to time to improve supplies to Assam, viz.

(1) The question of improvement of movements *via* Bongaigaon and

Farakka is constantly reviewed in consultation with the Railways

(2) The cement factories have been permitted to operate dumps at Jogighopa in Assam and Shalmar in West Bengal to which place cement is to move in block rakes. From these dumps, cement is to be moved to ultimate destinations in Assam by Road.

(3) The dump at Jogighopa has recently been strengthened to step up the cement supplies to Assam and other States in North East Frontier Region.

(4) The basis of freight reimbursement by road has also been liberalised.

(5) Cement movement to Assam has also been permitted through the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation at considerably higher freight.

(6) The State of Assam was recently allotted two ships of imported cement at Haldia over and above the normal allocation.

(7) To ensure that allocation does not lapse because of movement, the validity period of authorisations for supply to destinations in Assam and other States in Far Eastern Region has also been raised to 4½ months against 3½ months in case of other States.

Stock of Cotton Lying with Factory

4043 SHRI HITENDRA DESAI Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how much stock of cotton is lying unsold in the various Co-operative Cotton ginning factories and also private cotton ginning factories, and

(b) what are the reasons for the difficulties experienced by these factories in selling cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). Government has not received any report about accumulation of cotton lying unsold with co-operative and private ginning factories.

Utilisation of Capacity of Jessop and Co.

4044. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jessop and Company has been running at a heavy loss after a little improvements during 1975-76 and 1976-77;

(b) if so, what are the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the capacity of the said company has not been fully utilised because of lack of orders especially from other public sector companies; and

(d) if so, which are the main public sector companies which used to place orders with this company; details of the orders from these companies during the last three years and reasons for cut in orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 1977-78, M/s. Jessop & Co., suffered a net loss of Rs. 503 lakhs, after providing for depreciation (Rs. 91 lakhs) and interest (Rs. 481 lakhs), whereas during the preceding two years, i.e. 1976-77 and 1975-76 it had made profit of Rs. 65 lakhs and Rs. 12 lakhs respectively. The reasons for incurring loss in 1977-78 were as follows: low production resulting from loss of working hours due to unscheduled, frequent and prolonged power-cuts throughout the year, lack of adequate orders to match the overall production capacity, low productivity, provision of annual Bonus for the year as well as for the

previous year and heavy debt-service charges.

(c) One of the major reasons for low utilisation of capacity has been lack of orders, especially from the Railways who have cut back on their usual orders for conventional type of coaches. The withdrawal of price preference circulars in favour of the public sector undertakings has also resulted in reduction in the quantum of orders on the Company.

(d) The Railways, the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., the public sector steel plants, the port trusts, the Hindustan Paper Corporation, and the DGS&D as also authorities of various projects have been placing orders on Jessop & Co., for various items of machinery during the last three years. The quantum of orders placed by these parties have varied from year to year according to their requirements. The Railways have cut back on their orders for conventional types of coaches as they are switching over to the integral type of coaches. Jessop & Co., is trying to reorient its production profile to match to the requirements of the Railways. The order book position has improved recently and, if the power supply position remains satisfactory, the performance is expected to improve substantially in the coming year viz., 1979-80.

Scrapping of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

4046. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Minister of Punjab had demanded the scrapping of Centrally sponsored schemes in the State;

(b) if so, what is the Centre's reaction thereto; and

(c) what is the total allocation of funds proposed for Centrally sponsored schemes in the Sixth Five Year Plan?