

(b) the clear formulation of policy made in such cases so as to obviate such controversies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) (a) The Visakhapatnam Port Trust invited tenders in March, 1978 for procurement of No. twin-screw diesel tractor tug. The tenders were opened on 14-7-78. Six firms submitted tenders. After taking into account all the relevant factors, the Port Trust Board decided to award the contract to M/s. Mazagaon Dock Limited and sought Central Government's approval accordingly.

M/a. Hindock Engineering Company submitted several representations against the rejection of their tender stating that their offer was the lowest and that they had also necessary technical know-how and capacity to build the tug.

The capacity of this firm to build and deliver the tug was rechecked through the Director General of Shipping, Bombay, The Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Calcutta (under the administrative control of D. G. Shipping, Bombay), after inspection of the yard of the Company reported (April, 1979) that due to proposed supply of design, deawing and components from reputed foreign supplier and technical supervision of collaborators, it will be within the capacity of the firm to construct and deliver the tug within 20 months subject to usual force majeure as clause. He also added that in case it is decided to award the work to the firm it will be advisable to obtain suitable guarantees against stage payments as the firm did not have the proven ability to undertake a single work worth Rs. 1.68 crores. The Visakhapatnam port Trust Board, upon re-considering the matter in the light of the above report, has decided to award the contract to M/s. Hindock Engineering Company Ltd. subject to sanction of the Government.

There was, however, no controversy in the Ministry about the acceptance of the recommendations of the Port Trust Board.

(b) As a policy, tenders are awarded to a firm of proven or potential ability offering the lowest quotation which is acceptable both from technical and scheduled delivery/completion angle.

### **Benefit to Women Workers in Mines**

690. DR. BIJOY MONDAL: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the large number of women workers continued to be temporary hands over after putting five years service in the selected mines;

(b) whether they do not get extra welfare amenities like creches, maternity benefits, toilet and other welfare provisions; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any action in regard thereto and see that women workers get all benefits in the mines ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) (a) A recent study conducted by the Labour Bureau on Socio-economic Conditions of Women Workers in Mines reveals that a large number of women working in mines other than coal and manganese, continue to be temporary even after putting in one to five years of service.

(b) Welfare amenities like creches, maternity benefit, toilets etc. are required to be provided to both temporary and permanent workers according to the provisions of the relevant act, namely, the Mines Act, 1952 and Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.

(c) The enforcement agencies have been asked to ensure that these amenities are adequately provided by the employers.

### **Problems of Indians in Uganda**

691. DR. BIJOY MONDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are in close contact with the new Government of Uganda to discuss the problems of Indians living in that country; and

(b) whether any communication has been received from that Government in regard thereto and if so, the nature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU)