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Revision of Minimum Wages for Agricultural Labourers

1358. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some States which have not revised the minimum wages for agricultural labourers in the last five years; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH): (a) and (b). According to available information the minimum wages for agricultural labourers have not been revised in the last five years in Assam. The State Government has been requested to take steps to revise the minimum wages.

Dalai Lama's request for accepting Tibetan Refugees

1359. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dalai Lama has stated that the Bhutanese authorities have softened their attitude towards Tibetan refugees;

(b) if so, whether some of the Tibetans have got the citizenship of Bhutan also and if so, the number thereof;

(c) whether the Dalai Lama has requested the Indian Government also to consider and accept Tibetan refugees; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several thousand Tibetan refugees in Bhutan have got Bhutanese citizenship but their precise number is not known as yet.

(c) The Dalai Lama has requested that Tibetan refugees presently in Bhutan who have not accepted Bhutanese citizenship may be accepted for rehabilitation in India.

(d) The question of the possible rehabilitation in India of some of the Tibetan refugees who are presently in Bhutan is being considered by Government in consultation with all concerned.

Setting up of Shipyard in Western Coast

1360. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have shipyard for repairing ships in the Western Coast of the country; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND (a) and (b). A 15 year Perspective Plan for Ship Repair facilities in the country is expected to be ready by mid-1981. Setting up of additional shiprepair facilities in the Western Coast etc. will depend on the Perspective Plan and availability of resources.

Amendment of Bonus Act

1361. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2069 on

27th March 1980 regarding proposal to amend payment of Bonus Act 1965 and to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any action to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) (a) and (b): The matter is under consideration of Government.

Movement of Essential Commodities

1362. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it was decided by the Railways that close

liaison would be maintained with State Government for movement of essential commodities into the States:

(b) if so, whether the Railways have set up monitoring cells at the zonal and divisional levels to watch movement of essential commodities; and

(c) if so, the details regarding loading, unloading and movement of rice, wheat vanaspati, edible oils, sugar, salt, soft coke diesel and kerosene during the last six months?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, but temporarily.

(c) A statement showing loading of foodgrains, petroleum products (POL) imported edible oil, soft coke, sugar and salt is attached.

Statement

Loading in wagons
IMPORTED

Month	FOODGRAINS		P.O.L.		EDIBLE OIL, Soft Coke			SUGAR		SALT	
	BG	MG	BG	MG	BG	MG	BG	MG	BG	MG	
1979 December	49696	19782	48958	8656	464	367	3348	694	960	5082	8101
1980 January	47966	18105	48840	7529	586	206	2976	1971	961	5553	7261
February	44428	17327	45065	8069	647	187	2407	3335	1885	4004	7830
March	52134	15818	49904	8949	655	205	3937	4931	3430	4223	7476
April	*45450	*14640	47700	8850	940	250	2340	3709	2765	4003	6968
May	*30530	*15438	47058	7874	1021	235	3100	4538	2987	*4867	*5797

*provisional figures.

Conversion of Amedpur-Katwa Line

1363. PROF. RUP CHAND PAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the steps taken by Government for the conversion of

the narrow gauge Amedpur-Katwa-Bandel-Katwa line into metre gauge and the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):