

cluding printing paper. There have been no reports to the effect that the quality of paper is inferior. In so far as export of paper is concerned, export of writing and printing paper is permitted within a limited ceiling of 10,000 tonnes but due to the competition in the international market, the actual export of writing and printing paper is negligible and has in no way hampered the growth of book publishing.

Various steps have been taken by the Government to improve the paper situation. These include offering excise rebates to small paper mills for the use of unconventional raw materials and utilisation of bagasse for writing and printing paper manufactured by new units, liberalising the import of wood pulp and reducing customs duty on its import, waiving import duty on waste paper used for paper making and exempting import of wood chips for the manufacture of paper from customs duty. The infrastructure support is being improved to enable the paper industry to achieve better capacity utilisation. Basic excise duty on paper is being reduced and this will ease the position with regard to availability of paper. Several paper mills have modernisation/renovation plans in hand to improve production and quality of paper.

Call to Reduce Marriage Age to 20 years in Conference of Asian Forum of Parliamentarian

4417. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Conference of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians held recently in New Delhi has given a call to the minimum marriage age of both men and women to 20 years to enable to check the growth of population; and

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to bring legislation in the direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) The Conference gave a call that the minimum age of marriage be raised to 30 years.

(b) By the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1978, the minimum age of marriage was fixed for men at 21 years and for women at 18 years. It is felt that the time is not yet ripe to raise the minimum age of marriage for women to 20 years.

World Peace and a just Economic Order

4418. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is not a fact that the United Nations has become an ineffective body to prevent cold wars and the building up of deadly weapons by power-hungry nations ; and

(b) whether in the context of the above it is proposed to support movements like World Constitution and Parliament Association which are striving to promote world peace and a just economic order ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM) : (a) Despite its limitations, the United Nations is the most appropriate international forum for finding solutions to major world issues such as the achievement of general and complete disarmament and the realisation of the New International Economic Order. At the 7th Non-aligned Summit Conference held at New Delhi in March, 1983, the non-aligned nations reaffirmed their firm adherence to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and expressed their recognition to the need for supporting and strengthening the world organisation in order to make it an effective instrument

for the fulfilment of its central role in the maintenance of international peace and security and in establishing equitable economic relations between States and in promoting fundamental rights and freedoms in the world.

(b) India believes that all forums which are striving to promote world peace and a just economic order are useful to the extent that they contribute towards lessening of world tension and greater international peace.

Facilities to workmen for hearing of appeal filed by Railway

4419 SHRI A.K. ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention is drawn to the letter of the Under Secretary, Ministry of Labour dated 29 December, 1983 addressed to the General Manager, Eastern Railway to afford facilities to the workmen's representatives to attend the hearing of the appeal filed by the Railways before the Joint Secretary and Appellate Authority, if so, facts in details ;

(b) whether it is a fact that no facility were extended despite instructions ; and

(c) if so, steps taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A GHANI KHAN CHOU-DHURY) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

भांसी मंडल के सैकेनिकल इंजीनियरों द्वारा धनराशि समूल किये जाने का आरोप

4420. श्री हेमवती नन्दन बहुगुणा : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भांसी मंडल के कुछ प्राधि-कारियों ने 'कैरिज एंड वैगन दिवस' के नाम पर निधन लोगों से जबरदस्ती लाखों रुपये वगून किए हैं ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो सरकार ने इस मामले को कोई जांच करवाई है ;

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो जांच के दौरान किन तथ्यों का पता चला है ;

(घ) दोषी व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ; और

(ङ) यदि कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गई है, तो उसके कारण क्या है ?

रेल मंत्री (श्री ए० बी० ए० गनी खाँ चौधरी) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) से (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Expansion of Loading Facilities and Addition of more Berths at Haldia Port

4421. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the record lifting of cargo and coal at the Haldia Port, recently, Government have chalked out any plan for the expansion of loading facilities at this port, adding of more berths etc. ;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof and the capital outlay involved; and

(c) how long will it take to complete the expansion programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :