

has, however, no information whether the jhuggiwallas are employed as workers in the factories.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

**Additional Supplies of Foodgrains to Assam and Meghalaya to meet food situation**

5580. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the amount of Rice, Wheat and Atta already despatched to Assam and Meghalaya upto the end of 30th May since 25th March, 1971, to meet the food situation created by heavy influx of evacuees from East Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : About 43.5 thousand tonnes rice and 39.0 thousand tonnes wheat were despatched to Assam during the period 25th March to 31st May, 1971. Releases from this and the Central stocks already in Assam depots were made to the Government's of Assam and Meghalaya as required, for meeting the needs of public distribution as also of evacuees from East Pakistan. No atta was despatched to Assam during this period.

**Import of Foodgrains to meet the requirement of Bangla Desh Refugees**

5581. SHRI B. S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the countries with which negotiations are underway for import of more foodgrains to meet the requirement of Bangla Desh refugee influx ; and

(b) the quantity required and the time within which the imports should reach India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) No negotiations are under way with any country for import of foodgrains to meet the requirements of refugees from Bangla Desh. Offers of some foodgrains have, however, been received from USSR, U. K., USA, Japan

and certain international organizations like the World Food Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

(b) According to an estimate prepared earlier for feeding 6 million refugees for a period of six months, the quantity of rice required was put at 5.8 lakh tonnes. The total number of refugees from Bangla Desh has, however, already exceeded 7 million and the influx continues unabated. These refugees are being supplied rice and other foodstuffs by Government from stocks held in the country, and there will be recouped from the food aid made available by other countries to the extent such aid is available. No time limit can, therefore, be indicated within which the foreign assistance must reach India.

**Shifting of Iron Ore Division of National Mineral Development Corporation to Hyderabad**

5582. SHRI R. P. UIAGANAMBI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board of Directors of National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd., decided in its meeting held on the 17th April, 1968 the shifting of Iron Ore Division to Hyderabad ; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The question of shifting the headquarters of the National Mineral Development Corporation and some other public sector undertakings from Delhi to other places is under consideration by the Government.

**Strike by Construction Labour in Chandigarh**

5583. SHRI A. N. VIDYALANKAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in June 1970, the construction labour of Chandigarh struck work and their strike continued for about two weeks.