

Closure of Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Estates, Bonhooghly Calcutta

5616. SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Prime Minister has been drawn to the closure of Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Estates, Bonhooghly, Calcutta; if so, the reasons for the closure;

(b) whether the Prime Minister received any memorandum or protest note from the R.I.C. Workers Employees' Union with regard to this; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to reopen the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Estates restore peace and maintain security of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) to (c). A communication dated 11.6.1971 was received by the Prime Minister from the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Workers and Employees' Union, stating that the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation, Industrial Estate, at Bonhooghly, had become virtually closed due to continuous anti-social activities. The matter was brought to the notice of the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal for remedial measures. The Managing Director and the Chairman of the Corporation also contacted the authorities concerned in the West Bengal Government. Enquiries made from the Corporation show that the Industrial Estate has not closed down though the law and order situation has deteriorated considerably.

Land Reforms in Himachal Pradesh

5617. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two kinds of land reform Acts are in force in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the justification thereof; and

(c) the time till the said Acts will remain in force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c). For the purpose of Land Reforms, Himachal Pradesh has three different pieces of legislation: (1) The Himachal Pradesh Abolition of Big Landed Estates and Land Reforms Act 1953 applies to the old areas of Himachal Pradesh; (2) The Popsu Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act 1955 applies to the former PEPSU areas; and (3) The Punjab Security of Land Tenure Act 1953 applies to the remaining areas. The State Government has appointed a Land Reforms Committee to examine these Acts with a view to suggesting a unified legislation for the entire State of Himachal Pradesh. The Committee has submitted its report. The proposal to enact a uniform legislation is under the consideration of the State Government. The existing Acts would continue till a unified law is enacted.

Scope of Crash Programmes for Rural and Urban Employment

5618. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural unemployed who are getting job opportunity immediately as a result of introduction of crash programme for rural employment; and

(b) whether the same programme can be used for urban employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH): (a) The Crash Scheme for Rural Employment envisages the employment of 1,000 persons per district per year for a period of 10 months at a wage not exceeding Rs. 100/- per month per worker. The number of persons actually getting employment would be available only after progress reports in regard to implementation of the programme are received from the State Governments.

(b) No, Sir.

Production of Iron Ore and other Minerals

5619. SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual production of Iron Ore and other minerals earning foreign exchange ;

(b) how these products are being disposed off ;

(c) how much foreign exchange is being earned from these items ; and

(d) the major problems of the Mineral Industry in the country and how do Government propose to meet them.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Data on the production of Iron Ore and other important minerals which are exported from India is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—715/71.*]

(b) The minerals mentioned in the table besides being exported are also consumed in the indigenous industries. The quantity and value of export of these minerals for the years 1969 and 1970 is given in the table enclosed. Data for internal consumption is available only for the year 1969 and the same is given in the table.

(c) The total value of the exports of important minerals listed in the closed table was Rs. 187 Crores during 1970 as against Rs. 152 Crores during 1969. However the total value of exports of all the minerals from the country during 1970 was Rs. 201 Crores as against Rs. 169 Crores during 1969.

(d) The problems in mineral industry cover a wide range of aspects. Broadly speaking these include exploration, mining, beneficiation, transportation, cost, port handling, marketing and utilisation. One of the significant problem with the Indian Mineral Industry is the existence of large number of small mines operated by persons of meagre financial means and technical know-how. This has resulted in un-systematic mining practices, lack of adequate mineral exploration and preparation of minerals for marketing etc. The Indian Bureau of Mines is organised to render technical service to such mine owners. Apart from regular inspection of mines carried out by the Officers of the Indian

Bureau of Mines and conducting regional geological studies, the Bureau has recently opened a Consultancy Unit which is rendering service to mine owners on the problems exploration, estimation of reserves, preparation of mine plans, designs of mines, beneficiation etc. on no loss no profit basis. In order to gear up the beneficiation studies on low grade ores of various minerals, the Indian Bureau of Mines is setting up two regional laboratories and one additional pilot plant for beneficiation test work. The problems of beneficiation of ores are also being studied in the National Metallurgical Laboratory and other Regional Laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The Central Government and the State Govts. are giving requisite priorities for construction of approach roads in mining areas, construction of new railway lines, and development of port facilities such as increasing loading rates and berthing facilities for large ore carriers.

As the problems of minerals industry are diversified and each minerals has its own peculiar characteristics with reference to its occurrence mining and marketing etc. the Government, from time to time, appoints expert Committees and study groups to study these problems and suggest remedial measures.

So far as Geological Exploration is concerned Geological Survey of India has intensified its exploration operations, specially for non-ferrous minerals.

Shortage of Imported Tractors in U. P. Bihar and Madhya Pradesh

5620. **SHRI R. S. PANDEY :**
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH ;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are facing shortage of imported tractors for supply to their farmers to have better yield from their farms;

(b) whether the Centre have ascertained requirements of all the States with