

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1204/71]

(d) Steps to meet the demand would include attempts to step up domestic production by both short-term and long-term measures. Substantial measures will continue to be taken to increase imports, streamline distribution and regulate exports to meet the demand.

Censoring of Indian Publication in United Arab Republic

2607. **SHRI P. K. DEO:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government of India has been drawn to a report in the *Statesman* of 25th July, 1971 stating that the United Arab Republic has censored publication of the Indian Embassy advertisement in a local daily in Cairo concerning India's point of view on Bangla Desh; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government of India in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government have taken note of this.

Tripartite Committee on Bonus Act

2608. **SHRI V. MAYAVAN:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a tripartite Committee to examine the working of the Bonus Act has been appointed; and

(b) if so, its Constitution and terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) Not yet.

(b) Do not arise.

Gratuity for Coal-Mine Workers

2609. **SHRI V. MAYAVAN:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of gratuity for workers in coal-mines has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) and (b). It is proposed to introduce a Bill on payment of gratuity to industrial workers during the current session of Parliament. The Bill is likely to cover workers in Coal Mines.

Merger of E. S. I. and E. P. F. Schemes

2610. **SHRI V. MAYAVAN:**
SHRI JAGDISH CHANDRA DIXIT:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of merging the Employees State Insurance and Employees Provident Fund Schemes has been worked out by the Special Officer appointed for this purpose; and

(b) if so, the time by which this proposal will be given effect to?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) and (b). The Report of the Special Officer has been received recently and it is under examination.

Setting up of a Mini Steel Plant in North Bengal

2611. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a mini steel plant in North Bengal; and

(b) if so, whether any request has been made by West Bengal Government in this regard?