

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There is shortage of several categories of steel in the country which is affecting Engineering Industries also.

(c) Steel materials produced by the Main Producers are being supplied to the export oriented Engineering Industries on the basis of the priorities granted by the Steel Priority Committee. A liberal import policy is being followed in respect of categories in short supply. A special import policy, covering amongst others the requirements of export oriented engineering industries, was announced in September 1970. Material against this policy will come in mostly in the current year. These requirements are also given adequate priority in the imports being effected this year.

Supersession of Madras Dock Labour Board

681. **SHRI RATTANLAL BRAHMAN :**
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI M. KALYANASUNDA-
RAM :

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

(a) whether the Madras Dock Labour Board had been superseded by Government of India ;

(b) if so, in what manner ; and

(c) the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) Yes.

(b) The Madras Dock Labour Board has been superseded for a period of four months with effect from 4th October, 1971. During the period of supersession, the powers and functions which were previously exercised on performed by the Madras Dock Labour Board will be exercised by performed by a Special Officer appointed for the purpose by Government.

(c) Several decisions taken by the Madras Dock Labour Board in the recent past appeared to be not only irregular and objectionable, but such as to impair the efficient and economic operation of the important part of Madras. Accordingly, a Joint Secretary in the Department of Labour and Employment was deputed to

conduct an enquiry into the working of the Madras Dock Labour Board under section 6A(1) of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948. On consideration of the facts disclosed by the report of the enquiry officer a show cause notice was issued to the Board listing the various lapses and omissions on its part. Government came to the conclusion that each of the lapses and omissions and instances of abuse of and of exceeding the powers vested in the Board as mentioned in the show cause notice had been established and that the Board had persistently made default in the discharge of its functions. Accordingly an order was issued on the 4th October 1971, under sub-section (1) of section 6B of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948 superseding the Board for a period of four months.

Russo-Algerian Communique on Bangla Desh

682. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA :**
SHRI M. M. JOSEPH :
SHRI C. CHITTIBABU :

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the views expressed in the latest Russo-Algerian Communique on Bangla Desh issues contradicted earlier views of Russian Government on the same matter as outlined in the Indo-Russian joint statements issued in Delhi after signing of the Indo-Soviet Treaty and subsequently in Moscow, during Prime Minister's visit there ;

(b) whether the Russian policy as outlined in the Russo-Algerian Communique on Bangla Desh is same as that of U. S. A. ;

(c) whether Government sought clarification from Russia regarding the Russo-Algerian Communique ; and

(d) if so, the nature of reply received ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) The Soviet-Algerian Communique issued at the end of Chairman Kosygin's visit to Algeria does not make any specific reference to the Bangla Desh issue. The Communique makes a general appeal to India and Pakistan to find a peaceful solution to the