

entrusted with the job of inspection/investigation of various establishments. The Assistant/Regional Commissioner has also visited a number of establishments situated at various places as was found necessary in the interest of smooth administration and enforcement of the Act and the Scheme framed thereunder.

(c) General instructions for surveys to be conducted by officials have already been issued in this behalf.

#### Wage Board for Workers in Construction Industry

2432. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a final decision has been taken to appoint a wage Board for the workers employed in the Construction Industry;

(b) whether the workers, under the leadership of All India Hindustan Construction Workers Union, have decided to launch a direct action in case the Wage Board is not appointed by the end of September, 1972 and if so, the reaction of the Government; and

(c) whether the workers employed in Construction Industry in India are not covered by the Gratuity Scheme and have also not been brought under the purview of Provident Fund benefit scheme, if so, the steps taken by Government to bring them under the various provisions of the Law ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) It is not proposed to set up a Wage Board for the Construction Industries;

(b) Government are not aware of this decision;

(c) Central legislation on Gratuity has been passed by Parliament recently. It would cover the Construction Industry also. As regards the application of the Provident Fund Scheme to this industry, the matter is being considered.

#### Support to India's Efforts regarding Vietnam War

2433. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during his recent tour in many foreign countries in July, 1972, many countries have assured of their whole-hearted support, in India's efforts to reduce chances of further escalation of war in Vietnam; and

(b) if so, which are those countries ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). In most of the countries visited by the Minister of External Affairs in July this year, the Vietnam problem came up in the course of discussions. Deep concern was expressed by these countries over the continuing war situation in Vietnam and there was appreciation of the views expressed by India for an early end to these hostilities and for a fair and just settlement of the Vietnam problem.

#### Security Personnel in Rourkela Steel Plant

2434. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of security personnel in Rourkela Steel Plant,

(b) the total number out of them, who have opted for Central Industrial Security Force and absorbed in the Plant; and

(c) the time by which the remaining personnel are expected to be absorbed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (c). The total number of security personnel in Rourkela Steel Plant was 878. Of these 226 opted to join the Central Industrial Security Force (C.I.S.F.). Out of the 226, 136 have been selected for absorption in C.I.S.F. and the remaining 90 have been earmarked for absorption in the plant.