

(b) No date for the visit has so far been fixed.

Joint Ventures Proposed Consequent to Protocol Signed between India and G.D.R.

2642. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state item-wise volume of trade expected to be transacted between India and German Democratic Republic during the ensuing year and the broad outlines of joint ventures proposed to be set up in either country as a result of Protocol signed on 17th October, 1973?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): The volume of trade expected to be transacted between India and the German Democratic Republic as envisaged in the Trade Plan for the year 1974 is Rs. 824 million; imports at Rs. 423 million and exports at Rs. 401 million.

In the Protocol signed on October 17, 1973 between the Minister of Planning and the Chairman of the State Planning Commission of the GDR, areas of mutual cooperation were identified but no specific joint venture was decided upon.

Rehabilitation of Repatriates from Foreign Countries in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2643. SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM:

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE:

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

(a) whether there is any scheme under consideration for resettling the emigrants from former East Pakistan, Sri-Lanka and other countries in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so the salient features thereof; and

(c) what are the other schemes for the rehabilitation of the emigrants?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) It is tentatively proposed to resettle about 2,200 (2000 in agriculture and 200 in small trade etc.) migrant families from former East Pakistan, about 2,000 (in agriculture) families of repatriates from Sri Lanka in Little Andaman Island and about 750 families of repatriates from Sri Lanka in a rubber plantation in Katchal Island during the Fifth Five Year Plan period subject to outlays for rehabilitation schemes in the Fifth Five Year Plan period being finally accepted.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Some Burma repatriates are reported to have gone on their own to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They are also considered for grant of business loans under the general scheme as applicable to Burma repatriates.

STATEMENT

(i) *Families to be resettled in agriculture.*—The families to be resettled in agriculture are to be given 5 acres of reclaimed land for cultivation, 1/3 acre of homestead land maintenance during the initial stages, financial assistance for housing, plough animals, agricultural tools and implement, seeds fertilisers and pesticides, paddy bunding and soil conservation measures, house hold equipment, utensils etc. according to the prescribed scales.

(ii) *Families to be resettled in small trade/business.*—Families to be resettled in small trade/business are to be given business-cum-homestead land 2/3 acres and housing and small trade loans according to the prescribed scales.

(iii) *Families to be resettled in rubber plantation.*—The families to be resettled in rubber plantation in Katchal will be provided employment and housing in the plantation besides lump sum grant before departure from the mainland for purchase of house hold equipment etc. and cash doles for a period of 3 months after arrival according to the prescribed scales.

Memorandum by All India Indian Oxygen and Acetylene Employees Federation

2644. SHRI D. K. PANDA:

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry received a memorandum dated the 17th August, 1973 from the All-India Indian Oxygen and Acetylene Employees' Federation requesting the Ministry to intervene and resolve the dispute relating to the Charter of Demands submitted by the Federation to Indian Oxygen Limited;

(b) whether Government are aware that the employees of India Oxygen Limited at its various Branches in Kanpur, Calcutta Asansol, Khardah and other places are conducting relay hunger strike for redressal of their charter of demands;

(c) whether Government are aware that there is a continued unrest amongst employees of Indian Oxygen Limited all over the country and they are threatening an-all-out strike; and

(d) if so the steps taken for redressal of the grievances?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a). Presumably reference is to the Federation's communication dated August 17, 1973 addressed to the Union Labour Minister.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected.

Coverage of Indian Jute Mills Association and Indian Tea Association, Calcutta under EPF Act

2645. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Engineering Association Calcutta is covered under the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act 1952 and the EPF scheme framed there under with effect from December, 1971; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to cover similarly the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta and the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta under the provisions of the said Act and scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The Provident Fund Authorities have intimated that the information is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Employees Rendered Surplus due to Amendment of EPF Act

2646. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of the latest amendment in the Employees Provident Funds Act a substantial number of employees of several State Governments have become surplus;

(b) whether the West Bengal Labour Minister made any representation in the matter; and