

unions of railwaymen regarding the threatened nation-wide strike of railwaymen; and

(b) if so, the outcome of these discussions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The representatives of the Central Trade Union Organisations and Trade Unions of Railwaymen were assured that the views expressed in the meeting would be communicated to the Railway Ministry and to the Government as a whole. Hope was expressed that negotiated settlement would be a possible and the strike would be averted.

Facilities for U.S. Base at Diego Garcia in violation of British Undertaking to Mauritius

8903. **PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in granting facilities to America to establish a naval base in Diego Garcia, it has been alleged that Britain has violated a solemn undertaking given to the people of Mauritius in 1967, when that Indian Ocean Island attained independence from the British Rule; and

(b) if so, whether India's representatives propose to raise this issue from the appropriate international forum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Government have seen a local press report to the effect that according to a solemn undertaking given by the Government of U.K. the Island of Diego Garcia would only be a communication base and not an offensive military establishment.

(b) The undertaking is a matter between the Governments of Mauri-

tius and of the U.K. India's views on the establishment of a naval base at Diego Garcia are well-known; we believe that it could exacerbate tension and rivalry in the area and go against the efforts of the littoral States towards creating a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean.

Bauxite Production in Bihar

8904. **SHRI JAGDISH NARAIN MANDAL:**

SHRI KARTIK ORAON:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) District-wise production of Bauxite in Bihar during the last three years; and

(b) the State-wise production of Bauxite during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b). A statement showing the State-wise production of Bauxite for the last three years is laid on the Table of the House. The entire production of Bauxite in Bihar State was from Ranchi District only.

Production of Bauxite in various States of India during 1971, 1972, and 1973.

(Production in Metric Tonnes)

State	1971	1972	1973 (P)
Bihar*	566,000	605,000	430,000
Goa	47,000	4,000	0,143
Gujarat	212,000	277,000	266,000
Madhya-Pradesh	248,000	294,000	238,000
Maharashtra	302,000	329,000	266,000
Karantaka	54,000	68,000	35,000
Tamil Nadu	74,000	101,000	33,000
Uttar-Pradesh	9,000	6,000	2,000

(P) Provisional.

*Entire production in Bihar was from Ranchi District.