

under the rules framed by the Delhi State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Disruption of Road Communication between Silchar and Jiribam

501. SHRI NOORUL HUDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to an unprecedented landslide, the road communication between silchar and Jiribam (Manipur) remained disrupted for more than a month recently;

(b) the estimated cost of construction of the road between Silchar and Jiribam, now being undertaken by the Border Roads Organisation.

(c) the progress achieved so far and the reasons for the slow construction; and

(d) the measures adopted to clear the landslide and check the same in the future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) This road was taken over by Border Roads Organisation on 15th February 1973 from Assam P.W.D. No new road is to be constructed but the existing road is to be improved and brought to class 9 standard. The cost of improvement and surfacing was estimated at Rs. 122.02 lakhs.

(c) The work is planned for execution during 1975-76.

(d) Landslides were cleared on an emergency basis.

Detailed study of the slide area is being carried out in consultation with Geological Survey of India, Central Road Research Institute and Central Water and Power Commission. The measures to be adopted will be decided after this study is completed.

Payment of Wages to Railway Workers during Strike period

502. SHRI MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether an order was issued on the 4th May, 1974 exempting the persons responsible for payment of wages to persons employed upon any Railway (otherwise than in a factory) from the operation of Section 5 of the Payment of Wages Act in respect of the wages of any such persons;

(b) when was this order rescinded;

(c) whether the Industrial Disputes Act was also suspended during the period 4th May, 1974 to 28th May, 1974; and

(d) if not, whether any action has been taken against the railway employees for their participation in the railway strike during that period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BAL GOVIND VERMA): (a) Yes.

(b) The order was rescinded on the 28th May, 1974.

(c) No.

(d) The strike was banned under the Defence of India Rules. The strike was therefore, illegal and all the Railway employees who participated in it were accordingly dealt with.

Assembly of Motor Launches for Gobind Sagar Lake, Bilaspur

503. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR. Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state the latest position regarding the assembly of Motor Launches proposed for Gobind Sagar Lake in Bilaspur District of Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): Sections of the hull, pre-

fabricated in the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation's Workshop reached the site at Govind Sagar in March, 1974 and assembly is expected to be started soon.

Decontrol of sale of Steel

504. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to de-control the sale of steel in the country;

(b) if so, the likely date for the implementation of this decision; and

(c) the broad outlines of the procedure for sale subsequently?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to (c). Despatches from the main steel plants are regulated by the Steel Priority Committee taking into account the end use for which steel is required, availability in a particular period and the competing demands. Utilisation of iron and steel materials for any purpose other than that for which these have been allotted or applied for is a penal offence punishable under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

There is no proposal to change the present system of steel distribution.

Number of Indians allowed to visit Pakistan and Vice versa

506. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PRASHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who were given special permission to visit India after crossing the Indo-Pak border in the month of October, 1974;

(b) the number of Indians who have been allowed to visit Pakistan during the same period; and

(c) the main reasons governing the special permission granted to them to cross into the desired countries under this arrangement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) 229.

(b) 59

(c) Such permission was granted in order to allow persons from both countries to visit their relatives in connection with marriages, sickness or when there were bereavements in the families of relatives in either country. In addition, permission was granted on the occasion of the series of hockey matches played between the Asian XI and the Indian team.

Amount earmarked for Health/Family Planning Centres in Punjab

506. SHRI RAGHUNANDANLAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount earmarked for the Health Centres and Family Planning Centres in Punjab State; District-wise, for the years 1973-74 and 1974-75; and

(b) how much has been earmarked for the villages and towns of Amritsar?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) and (b). Allocation of Central assistance to the States for Health and Family Planning Programmes is made scheme-wise for the State as a whole and not district-wise. The distribution of the allocation district-wise and for different villages and towns is made by the State authorities themselves on the basis of local requirements. The total amount ear-