

Reach Workshops Ltd., and Goa Shipyard Ltd., is not readily available. In case of Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd., no recruitment of apprentices has so far been made.

Charter of Demands by Trade Unions in Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh

551. SHRI SARJOO PANDEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Trade Unions of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh have formed a preparatory Committee and served an ultimatum on the Central Government either to accept their 11 points Charter of demands or face direct action after 31st October, 1974, and

(b) if so, the demands thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) The Ministry of Labour have no information about the Preparatory Committee on the reported ultimatum.

(b) Does not arise.

Special Cells in Defence Public Undertakings to Attend to Complaints and Grievances of S. C. and S. T. Employees

552. SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR:
SHRI S. M. SIDDAYYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various Defence Public Sector Undertakings have been asked to constitute special Cells under the control of Liaison Officers, to attend to complaints and grievances of their Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees to ensure their prompt disposal;

(b) if so, when were such instructions issued and which are the Defence Public Sector Undertakings that have opened such special Cells; and

(c) in which of these Undertakings such Cells have not yet been opened, with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c). A Presidential Directive was issued to all Defence Public Sector Undertakings in January 1970 to designate an officer incharge of administration, or any other officer designated for the purpose, to act as Liaison Officer in respect of matters relating to representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They were further advised that a suitably staffed Cell should be constituted under the control of the Liaison Officer to ensure prompt disposal of the grievances and representations of the employees of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Appropriate Liaison Cells for the above purpose are functioning in all the Defence Public Sector Undertakings other than Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited which has not yet gone into production.

Revision of Freight Rates and Bunkering Surcharge for Coastal Shipping

553 SHRI DHAMANKAR:
SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present freight and bunkering surcharge are considered inadequate and uneconomic for coastal shipping which is expected to play an increasingly important role in the economy of the country;

(b) whether a new formula is being evolved to revise the freight rates and the bunker surcharge for coastal shipping so that the shipping companies get a fair return on their capital; and

(c) how long will it take to examine and implement the revision of rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI):

(a) While the present freight rates for coal and salt on the coast may require revision, the present bunkering surcharge do not.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is hoped in the near future

Diplomatic Relations with P.R.G. of South Vietnam

554. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken to establish formal diplomatic relations with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam; and

(b) if so, the facts thereabout?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) and (b). The attention of the Hon. Member is invited to the statement made on 1st August, 1974 in the Rajya Sabha by the former Foreign Minister expressing India's desire to have "more direct relations and formal contacts" with the PRG of South Vietnam. As a follow-up to this statement, negotiations are currently being conducted with the representatives of the PRG of South Vietnam in order to work out the precise pattern of these "direct relations and formal contacts".

Geological Survey in Kerala

555. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: SHRI C. JANARDHANAN:

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

(a) at what stage is now the geological survey conducted in Kerala for finding the quality and quantity of iron ore deposits;

(b) what are the findings of this survey;

(c) whether Government had taken a decision to set up steel plant or any other industry for the utilisation of this iron ore; and

(d) the decision taken on Kerala Government's proposed schemes in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). A total reserve of 44,00 million tonnes of iron ore with 31.46 to 41.24 per cent iron has been estimated in the four blocks comprising Cheruppa, Nonminda, Nanduvallur and Elliyettimala in Kozhikode district of Kerala. Investigation for iron ore in the fifth block Alampara has also been completed and a report incorporating the reserve and grade of iron ore available in this area is being finalised.

Investigations by drilling are in progress in Korattimala near Nilambur, Malappuram District Kerala and the balance drilling is likely to be completed in 1975.

(c) Any decision on exploitation of these deposits can be taken only after the finalisation of the report on Alampara deposit and overall assessment of the area as a whole in the context of infra-structure availability and economic feasibility of exploitation for internal consumption or export.

(d) No scheme has till now been received in this Department from Kerala Government in this connection.

Lock-out in Public Corporations

556 SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Corporations like Indian Airlines Corporation, Air India, and Life Insurance Corporation declare lock-out if the workers go on strike; and