

to be paid directly by M/s. Torvan Shipping Company Limited, Hong Kong, as the crew was engaged on foreign articles in Singapore. However, the question of payment of compensation is being pursued with the company through our Mission in Hong Kong.

(b) Does not arise.

Small Scale Units in Orissa affected by shortage of iron and steel

1419. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:
SHRI P. GANGADEB:

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

(a) whether Small Scale Units in Orissa have been greatly affected by the shortage of iron and steel; and

(b) if so, the steps to be taken for the normal production by Small Scale Units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Man days lost due to power shedding in Orissa

1420. SHRI P GANGADEB Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of man days lost in Orissa State due to power shedding in 1973-74 and upto November, 1974;

(b) whether small scale industries have been closed due to power shedding; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). The matter falls essentially in the State sphere. The Ministry of Labour

have no information about the number of man days lost due to power shedding and the reported closure of small scale industries due to power shedding in Orissa. According to available information, Orissa had to introduce substantial power cuts from the latter half of October, even though thermal generation was 30 per cent higher compared to the last year's level. The Ministry of Energy are closely monitoring the implementation of various measures designed to reduce power shortages and improve power availability in the country.

Reopening of Shipping facilities from Calcutta to Cachar through Bangladesh Waters

1421. SHRI NOORUL HUDA. Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations for reopening of Shipping facilities from Calcutta to the district of Cachar in Assam through the waters of Bangladesh;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the impediments Government are facing in the matter; and

(d) the time by which the channel is expected to be established?

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

(b) to (d). A vessel was placed at Calcutta Port to resume this service. The Associations concerned were informed and necessary advertisements were also inserted in the local newspaper, but no traffic was offered and the vessel had to be diverted after 10 days of waiting. Discussions with Chambers of Commerce are being continued and the service will be resumed if and when assured cargoes are available.