

the integrated steel plants during 1973-74 on account of power shortage and/or coal shortage resulting from power shortage. The loss of production on this account during the period, April—August, 1974 is estimated at a little over 76,000 tonnes of saleable steel.

Rangoon Port Workers in Calcutta Port

1448. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) how many ex-Rangoon Port workers are at present absorbed in Calcutta Port;

(b) whether discrimination is shown against them in the matter of employment of their sons and wards in Calcutta Port; and

(c) how many sons/wards of the ex-Rangoon Port workers have obtained employment under the Calcutta Port Commissioners during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): (a) The number of ex-Rangoon crews employed at Calcutta Port at present is 242.

(b) Direct recruitment to Class III and Class IV posts is made through Employment Exchange. Dependents of employees of the port, who die in harness or who become invalid while in service, are not required to apply for jobs through the Exchange. Their cases are considered along with the candidates recommended by the Exchange, for suitable vacancies for which they possess the requisite qualifications. In view of this the question of discrimination against the sons and wards of ex-Rangoon Port workers in the matter of employment does not arise.

(c) The information is not available as no separate statistics are maintained regarding employment of sons/wards of ex-Rangoon port workers.

Parity in Pay Scales and Status in Medical and Administrative Services

1449. DR. SARADISH ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any parity of pay-scales and status at all levels amongst medical and administrative services; and

(b) if not, the facts thereof and reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) and (b). A comparative statement showing pay-scales and status at various levels amongst Central Health Service, Non-Technical Class I Service and Indian Administrative Service is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8532/74].

Government carefully considered the recommendations of the Pay Commission in this regard and representations of the Service Associations of Class I Officers of Central Government in regard to parity with Indian Administrative Service and came to the conclusion that because of several factors, particularly the present economic situation and the repercussions on various services, it was not possible to make any material changes, except for a few marginal adjustments, in the recommendations of the Commission.

Gherao of Indian Engineers in Nepal

1450. SHRI P. M. MEHTA:
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:
SHRI N. K. SANGHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the press report dated the 29th October, 1974 re-

guarding Indian Engineers threatened by the Nepalese labourers;

(b) whether the Indian women have also been attacked and they are not in a position to move about freely;

(c) whether Government have taken up this question with the Nepalese Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter and the outcome thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir, we are not aware of any woman having been attacked.

(c) The Indian Embassy promptly took up the matter with the Government of Nepal.

(d) The Nepal Government have provided adequate protection to the Indian staff located at the Project site. Work is proceeding smoothly and the situation now is normal.

Visit of Air Chief of Sri Lanka

1451. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Chief of Sri Lanka visited India during the month of October, 1974;

(b) if so, the nature of discussions held with him; and

(c) the object of the visit and result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. It was a good-will visit during which matters of mutual interest to the Air Forces of the two countries were discussed.

Anti-T.B. Drive

1452. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are having any proposal to intensify an anti-T.B. drive; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) Yes.

(b) During the Fifth Plan period, it is proposed to establish another 75 District T.B. Centres to carry out T.B. case finding, treatment and B.C.G. vaccination activities. With the proposed establishment of these T.B. Centres, all the districts in the country would be covered. It is also proposed to establish additional 3500 T.B. beds. Both these schemes are included under the State Plan Sector at an estimated outlay of Rs. 931.60 lakhs.

Domiciliary Treatment Scheme under District T.B. Control Programme is proposed to be expanded for which anti-T.B. drugs to State run T.B. Centres would be supplied by the Centre at an estimated cost of Rs. 575 lakhs during the Plan period. It is also proposed to supply anti-T.B. drugs to T.B. Centres run by voluntary bodies at an estimated outlay of Rs. 100 lakhs. Supply of B.C.G. Vaccine would also continue at an estimated outlay of Rs. 150 lakhs.

Nationalisation of Major Road Transport Companies

1453. SHRI JAGADISH BHATT CHARYYA: Will the Minister SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the question of nationalising all the major road transport companies; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?