

Vasectomy, Operation of Unmarried Youths of Haryana

1562. SHRI NOORUL HUDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether many unmarried youths were forced to undergo 'Vasectomy' operation at Kharkhoda Village in Sonapat, Haryana;

(b) whether the people of Kharkhoda observed one day Hartal to protest against the illegal vasectomy; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to punish the concerned responsible persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE): (a) No.

(b) A few shops were closed, though there was no basis for their protest.

(c) Question does not arise.

Design of Second Hooghly Bridge

1563. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA. Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh disputes have arisen between various foreign consultants over the design of the proposed second Hooghly bridge;

(b) how it is proposed to settle the matter in case the consultants cannot agree; and

(c) the extent of the delay likely to be caused and escalation of cost in taking up the construction work?

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

(a) No such report has been received so far from the State Government who are primarily concerned in the matter.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Payment of Wages in lieu of Bonus to Workers in Calcutta Dock Labour Board

1564. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta Dock Labour Board workers, employed by private stevedore firms had received 37 days' wages in lieu of bonus in 1973;

(b) whether they had demanded an equivalent amount this year also;

(c) whether Government insisted that they would not get more than an amount equivalent to 8.33 per cent of their wages; and

(d) the reasons for Government's stand, particularly in view of the dockers' improved output during 1973-74 and their exclusion from the Payment of Bonus Act?

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

(a) The Registered Dock Workers of Calcutta Dock Labour Board were paid *ex-gratia* in lieu of bonus equivalent to the average earnings for 37 days for the year 1972-73.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). As dock workers are not covered by the Payment of Bonus Act, it has been decided that they cannot be paid *ex-gratia* in lieu of bonus for 1973-74 at a rate of higher than the minimum, i.e. 8 1/3 per cent. It may be mentioned that there was no improvement in over-all cargo handling by dock workers at Calcutta in 1973-74 as compared to 1972-73.

Discussion with U.S. Secretary of State on Diego Garcia Issue

1565. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussion was held with U.S. Secretary of State