

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) and (b). The consistent views of the Government of India regarding the military base in Diego Garcia have been conveyed to the U.S. Government from time to time. These views were also reiterated during the Foreign Minister's visit to the United States in October, 1975.

Ordinance on Bonus

243. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Central Trade Union Organisations have opposed the Ordinance on Bonus;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government; and

(c) the reason as to why these organisations or the Apex Body were not consulted?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) and (b). Representations have been received in connection with some of the provisions in the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Ordinance, 1975 and the points made therein have been noted.

(c) Such consultation was not considered necessary as the Ordinance was to be promulgated.

Loans demanded by Maharashtra for Repairs of National Highway No. 17

244. **SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount demanded by the Government of Maharashtra as loan and subsidy for repairs to the National Highway No. 17 (West Coast Road) in Kolaba District;

(b) the amount paid or proposed to be paid during 1974-75 and 1975-76; and

(c) whether any time limit has been fixed for carrying out these repairs?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI (DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). The expenditure incurred on development of national highways and on their maintenance and repairs is met by the Government of India direct, and no loans or subsidies are given for this purpose to State Governments.

In January 1975 the Government of Maharashtra forwarded an estimate of Rs. 134.07 lakhs for rehabilitating the cracked cement concrete pavement of the West Coast Road, National Highway No 17 lying in the Kolaba District. After examination, this estimate was sanctioned for Rs. 117.27 lakhs in June, 1975. This estimate provides for dismantling the existing cracked cement concrete pavement and rebuilding the same as blacktopped pavement in two lane widths. For this work the Government of Maharashtra have demanded during the current financial year a sum of Rs. 58 lakhs. The same is proposed to be allotted. Funds permitting, the rehabilitation work is likely to be completed by June, 1977.

G.S.I. Report on Kozhikode Iron ore Deposits

245. **SHRI S. H. MOHAMED KOYA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has submitted a report on the iron ore deposits in Kozhikode District;

(b) the salient features of study made by Government on its utilisation; and

(c) whether any further study is contemplated?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Exploration of the area in this District has so far been carried out only up to the preliminary stage to assess probable and possible reserves and to have a broad idea of the grade. Present estimates indicate a total probable reserves of 365 million tonnes of oxidized iron ore and 4192 million tonnes of unoxidized iron ore. The average iron ore content is about 35 per cent. Detailed tests and further studies will be necessary to determine the economic feasibility of commercial exploitation of these ores.

Seven-days Week in Private Sector

246 SHRI M RAM GOPAL REDDY Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state.

(a) whether the national Apex body of the private sector has accepted a proposal to introduce seven-days week, and

(b) if so, the advantages and disadvantages therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) (a) Yes, it has accepted the proposal in principle subject to certain guidelines.

(b) The seven days working in the industry is expected to increase production and employment opportunities particularly when it is to be introduced in agreement with workers/Union(s).

Lay-Offs and Retrenchments by Employers

247 SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether AITUC has drawn the attention of Government to the closures, lay-offs and retrenchments being carried out by the employers in violation of the decision of the National Apex Body, and

(b) the steps taken by Government against the employers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY). (a) Yes. In one of the resolutions entitled "on use and misuse of Emergency" passed by the General Council of AITUC during November, 1975, there is a reference about employers' resorting to lay offs, closures and retrenchments etc.

(b) The matter was placed before the National Apex Body which discussed the issue threadbare and evolved a guideline for the prevention of unilateral action by the employers and employees.

Recurrence of Small-Pox in the Country

248 SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that again small-pox has occurred in India, and

(b) if so, the reasons and facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A K M. ISHAQUE) (a) No case of small-pox has been reported in India since the 5th July, 1975.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Shipbuilding Yards

249 SHRI ARJUN SETHI Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether the inter-ministerial committee formed to go into the details of the recommendations of the consultants on the feasibility of establishing ship-building yards during the Fifth Five Year Plan have submitted the report, and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?