

Development Corporation washeries. It has also been decided to simplify the export procedure. Subject to a floor price being set by the M.M.T.C. and canalisation of the export being done through them, exporters will be free to negotiate with foreign buyers.

The suggestion for financing the pithead stocks at collieries has, however, not been accepted.

#### Flue Epidemic

191. SHRIMATI ILA PAL CHOU-

DHURI :

SHRI R. K. BIRLA :

SHRI DEVEN SEN :

SHRI SAMINATHAN :

SHRI MAYAVAN :

SHRI N. R. LASKAR :

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :

SHRI NARAYANAN :

SHRI N. K. SANGHI :

SHRI DHANDAPANI :

DR. KARNI SINGH :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) Whether It is a fact that the toll of life taken by the recent Flue epidemic in the country was heavy;

(b) If so, whether Government have obtained any authentic information regarding the number of persons who fell ill or died separately as a result of their suffering from Flue; and

(c) what measures were taken to check the epidemic in the beginning and to prevent the suffering people from becoming victims of death?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) No.

(b) The information available so far is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2552/70*].

(c) On receipt of information regarding

the outbreak of influenza epidemic in Europe due to A2/Hong Kong/68 and certain reports in the local newspapers of a similar outbreak of the disease in India also, a letter was sent to all States asking them to report the incidence of influenza and advising them about the steps to be taken for its prevention and treatment and the procedure to be followed for the collection of pathological material from the patients.

In States like, Rajasthan and Gujarat where large numbers of cases were reported, steps were taken to give medical relief in the affected areas by providing medicines to the village panchayats and mobile medical units. Steps were also taken to stock the essential drugs in the primary health centres and district hospitals.

#### Strike by D.M.C. Sweepers and other Employees

192. SHRI D. R. PARMAR :

SHRI KIKAR SINGH :

SHRI P. N. SOLANKI :

SHRI DEVAN SEN :

SHRI ABDUL GHANI DAR :

SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA :

SHRI P. M. MEHTA :

SHRI DHANDAPANI :

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :

SHRI YASHPAL SINGH :

SHRI S. KUNDU :

SHRI N. R. DEOGHARE :

SHRI RAMAVTAR SHASTRI :

SHRI M. L. SONDHI :

SHRI ARJUN SINGH

BHADORIA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a strike of the Delhi Sweepers and other Municipal Employees of the Delhi Municipal Corporation in January, 1970;

(b) if so, the reasons for the strike, and the details of their demands;

(c) whether the strike has been declared illegal;

(d) if so, the steps taken by his Department, Police Department, Labour Depart-

ment and the other authorities against the strikers for continuing the said illegal strike; and

(e) the steps taken against the authorities concerned for not implementing the assurances given orally as well as in writing some time ago; and the steps taken by the authorities concerned to fulfil the demands of the strikers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) The Delhi Municipal Corporation have intimated that only sweepers of Public conservancy in some of the Zones of the Delhi Municipal Corporation went on strike from 21.1.1970 to 5.2.1970.

(b) Alleged non-implementation of settlement arrived at between the Delhi Municipal Corporation and the Delhi Pradesh Balmiki Mazdoor Sangh on 24.7.1967. A copy of the memorandum of the settlement is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2553/70].

(c) The Government of India declared Public conservancy and sewage disposal services in the Union Territory of Delhi as essential services and prohibited strike in these services under the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1968.

(d) The Minister for Health and Family Planning and Works, Housing and Urban Development held discussions with the representatives of the Delhi Municipal Corporation, the Labour Commissioner and the representatives of the Delhi Pradesh Balmiki Majdoor Sangh with a view to assisting the parties to the dispute for ending the strike early.

A number of meetings were also held by the Labour Commissioner, Delhi Deputy Commissioner, Delhi and the Chief Secretary, Delhi Administration with a view to persuading the workers to resume work.

The Delhi Municipal Corporation lodged complaints with the Police against the workers who indulged in obstruction, intimidation and violence or incited the workers to strike. The Police registered 202 cases

under various provisions of law against the striking workers.

(e) The Delhi Municipal Corporation contend that they have implemented the settlement of 24th July, 1969. However, according to a settlement arrived at between the Delhi Municipal Corporation and the Delhi Pradesh Balmiki Mazdoor Sangh on 5.2.1970, all the issues connected with the dispute have been referred to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi for mediation.

#### Foreign Aid to India

193. SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the net foreign aid to India has been dwindling due to increasing debt liabilities and the debt till March, 1968 equalled the loans drawn for nine years since the commencement of the First Five Year Plan (1951 to 1960) ;

(b) if so, how Government propose to overcome this situation ; and

(c) whether in view of the dwindling of foreign assistance, the draft Fourth Five Year Plan has not yet been formulated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P.C. SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The net foreign aid to India has been coming down because of increasing debt liabilities. The amortization payments upto March 31, 1968, equalled the value of loans drawn in the first nine years since the commencement of the first Plan.

(b) The Fourth Plan has been drawn in a way that the net aid inflow needed for the Fourth Plan will be one-half of that of the Third Plan. The emphasis on increased agricultural production and maximum use of existing facilities for industrial production and the stress made on export promotion are designed to reach the objective of reduced dependence on external aid.

(c) No, Sir.

#### Expansion Programme of Gujarat State Refinery

194. SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of PETRO-