

[English]

India's relations with Afghanistan

4571. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to strengthen further the bilateral relationship with Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): It has been Government's constant endeavour to strengthen the traditionally close relations which have always existed between India and Afghanistan. There has been a regular, high-level exchange of visits between our two countries and agreements have been concluded to promote cooperation in the economic, cultural and other fields. India has also been extending economic assistance to Afghanistan which, inter alia, includes relief assistance for refugee rehabilitation, deputation of experts and scholarships for Afghan nationals. Government have also recently arranged to supply 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan on a grant basis.

[Translation]

Setting up of workshop at Chimur, Maharashtra

4572. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mining works in all the collieries of Chandrapur district to Maharashtra are being conducted under Wardha Coalfields;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have received any proposal for setting up of a workshop at Chimur in Chandrapur district; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The mining operations in all the collieries of Chandrapur District of Maharashtra come under Wardha Valley Coalfield. A reference has been received from the Hon'ble Member regarding shifting of the Central Workshop Chandrapur presently sited at Tadali to Chimur. The location of the Workshop at Tadali is central keeping in view the needs of the coal mines in Ballarpur, Chandrapur and Wani areas. More projects are likely to come up in these areas in future also. Therefore shifting of the Workshop from Tadali to Chimur is not feasible.

[English]

Assistance to Buro Paddy Cultivators in Assam

4573. SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the "Buro Paddy" a major agriculture product of the Karimganj district of Assam, is damaged every year by floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to assist these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) In Karimganj district "Boro Paddy" is damaged due to floods whenever floods occur early in April-May.

(b) and (c). During 1990-91, No damage to the crop occurred. However, during 1991-