

liation proceedings of disputes between the employers and the employees ;

(b) whether the number of the reconciliation officers has been increased and if so, the percentage of increase of such officers ; and

(c) whether a trial would be given to have direct reconciliation talks between the employers and the representatives of the employees and if this has been tried, and if so, to what result ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) The percentage of success in conciliation proceedings in the Central Sphere was 49.1 during the year 1971.

(b) The percentage of increase of Conciliation Officers was about 11 during the year.

(c) The employers and the representatives of employers do mutually negotiate and arrive at settlements. There were 687 such settlements during the year 1971.

Correction of Answer to unstarred Question No. 5818 dated May 11, 1972 re. Royalty for Iron ore paid to Madhya Pradesh

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : In reply to part (b) of the unstarred question No. 5818 11.5.1972, it was stated that the amount paid on to Madhya Pradesh in the form of royalty during 1971-72 was Rs. 5,16,889. This was based on the information received from the State Government. They have since intimated that the correct figure is Rs. 51,68,889. Hence the earlier figure may be corrected accordingly.

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED POSSIBILITIES OF EXTENSIVE CIRCULATION IN WESTERN COUNTRIES OF ERRONEOUS SOVIET MAPS OF INDIA

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar) : I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following

matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The reported possibilities of extensive circulation in Western countries of erroneous Soviet maps of India depicting large portions of Indian territory in NEFA and Aksai Chin as part of China."

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has seen in the press the reported deal between an American commercial firm and the USSR (Government regarding the publication of the English edition of the Great Soviet Encyclopaedia. Our Missions concerned have been asked to send fuller details on the subject.

The reference in the newspaper report appears to be to Volume I of the Great Soviet Encyclopaedia, printed in November 1969, which contains a map on page 280 depicting wrongly India's external boundaries. When this map came to the notice of the Government, we had raised this issue with the Soviet Foreign Office. The Soviet authorities had assured us that this was a matter dealt with in a technical manner by their cartographers and specialists and did not have any political significance. They further told us that the wrong depiction of boundaries in such maps did not in any way affect or reflect the Soviet Government's understanding of and respect for India's frontiers.

While the reported deal with an American firm would lead to larger circulation on commercial basis of the Great Soviet Encyclopaedia, this does not reflect any change in the Soviet position.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Sir, as far as I remember, this matter was discussed in the House on various occasions since 1968, and we have been hearing from the Ministry—and the hon. Minister was loud enough to say—that a protest has already been made. Here also he has repeated the same thing that a protest has already been lodged with the Soviet office and they have assured us that it will have no political significance.

As the outset, I would like to make it very clear that there is a chance to misunderstand our views so far as Soviet Union is concerned ; there is no doubt about it that the Soviet Union is a great friend of ours. But,