

pelletisation plant but the evaluation part. Iron ore is now piling up.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have already mentioned that we have invited tenders and the last date is 15th of December. After that we will be in a position to do that.

Fall in the price of Marine Products

*280. **SHRI K. B. CHOUDHARI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the steep fall in the price of marine produce in the last year;

(b) whether Government have taken steps to counter this downward trend in prices, which will ruin the small fishing operator;

(c) whether Government have proposed some measures of relief to the fishing trawler owners and small operators so that they can sustain themselves during this depression; and

(d) if not, what Government propose to do in the case of the fishing industry; since reliefs are usually given to other industries like tea, jute etc.?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). There was no fall in prices of marine products during the last year. However, there have been fluctuations in the international prices for shrimps during the current financial year. The small fishing operators are getting other varieties of fish besides prawn. According to the information received from the Ministry of Agriculture, the local prices of fish have registered an upward trend. Cash compensatory support and import replenishment are already available to certain exportable marine products other than shrimp.

SHRI K. B. CHOUDHARI: Sir, there was no fall in the price of fish in general, but the fall in price is in respect of prawn. What measures the

Government have taken in this respect?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have already explained the position that so far as the export compensation is concerned, I had explained that they are already entitled to have it and it is not as if in one item the price falls, sometimes they make good in other items. So far as fisheries are concerned, it is the Agriculture Ministry which is the administrative Ministry that is concerned. I am concerned only with the exports. They have indicated that there is an upward trend, there is no downward trend.

SHRI K. B. CHOUDHARI: I would like to know whether the small boat owners have been given relief.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: This question is to be answered by the Agriculture Ministry. I am not competent to answer.

खनिजों पर रायबंदी की दरों में संशोधन

281. श्री एन० ई० हीरो : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार सरकार ने खनिजों पर रायल्टी की दरों पर में संशोधन करने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार से अनुगोष किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी ब्योरा क्या है ; और

(ग) उस पर सरकार की प्रतिबन्धना क्या है ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Study Group, which included officials of certain State Governments,