

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA):

(a) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to amend the following Acts:—

- (i) Plantation Labour Act, 1951.
- (ii) Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1976.
- (iii) Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.
- (iv) Trade Unions Act, 1926.
- (v) Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act, 1946.
- (vi) Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976.
- (vii) Iron Ore Mines and Manganese Ore Mines Labour Welfare Cess Act, 1976.

(b) The Plantation Labour (Amendment) Bill has been passed by the Rajya Sabha and it awaits consideration in the Lok Sabha. The Beedi Workers Welfare Cess Amendment Bill has already been passed by the Lok Sabha and awaits consideration in the Rajya Sabha.

In other cases, the details are being worked out.

Separate Dock for Coastal Trade at Bombay Port

*267. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that both coastal trade boats and the foreign ships have all to disembark and load their goods in the docks of Bombay Port and that the system of having a separate dock for the coastal trade has been done away with;

(b) if so, whether this has resulted in delay of both exports and imports and also the coastal trade;

(c) if so, the reasons for the Princess Dock, which was earlier catering to coastal trade only, being utilised now for import and export cargo; and

(d) the steps being taken to avoid such delay?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. All Bombay Docks are open to both foreign going and coastal vessels. However, at no time was a separate dock earmarked exclusively for the coastal trade at Bombay Port.

(b) to (d). Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

Seminar on 'Prevention of Blindness Among Children'

*270. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a seminar was held recently on 'Prevention of Blindness Among Children' organised by Dr. A. V. Baliga Foundation at New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether some recommendations were also made in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the recommendations, and the recommendations accepted by Government;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LAKSHAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The recommendations relate to the remedial steps necessary to deal with the four main factors identified by the Seminar as the causes of visual impairment and blindness among children, namely infection, malnutrition, injuries, delay in detection of visual impairment and its early management. Several of the steps suggested are already under implementation as part of Government Programme including the National Programme for the Control of Blindness.