

been accepted by Government and commended to the State Governments for necessary action.

The Trade Unions Act, 1926 and the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 are applicable to agricultural labour. Agricultural farms run on commercial basis are also covered under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Employees' Provident Fund and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 is applicable to agricultural labour engaged in specified plantations. The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 is applicable to workers employed in farming by tractors or other contrivances driven by steam or other mechanical power or by electricity

The constitution of an Expert Cell on agricultural labour is under consideration.

कच्चे लोहे का निर्यात

*322. श्री महावीरक सिंह शास्त्री : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1972-73 में कुल कितना कच्चा लोहा विभिन्न देशों को निर्यात किया गया और उससे कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त हुई, और

(ख) विदेशों को कच्चे लोहे का निर्यात बन्द करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

भारी उद्योग तथा इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री टी० ए० पाई) : (क) वर्ष 1972-73 में 4.07 लाख टन कच्चा लोहा निर्यात किया गया जिसका मूल्य 13.23 करोड़ रुपये था।

(ख) इस समय कच्चे लोहे का निर्यात उतनी मात्रा का ही निर्यात किया जा रहा है जो देश की आवश्यकता से अधिक है। देश में इस्पात बनाने की क्षमता का विकास हो जाने से कच्चे लोहे का निर्यात कम हो जाने का संभावना है।

Commissioning of Blast Furnaces in Bokaro Steel Plant

*323. SHRI E. V. VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the erection and commissioning of various blast furnaces in the first, second, and third stages of Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) when all the furnaces of the first stage of Bokaro Steel Plant are likely to be completed and commissioned, and

(c) whether the first blast furnace of the first stage commissioned in October, 1972 has been working without any trouble whatsoever?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) to (c). The Bokaro Steel Plant will have three Blast Furnaces in the first stage (17 million ingot tonnes) and two more will be installed in the second stage (4 million ingot tonnes).

2. The first Blast Furnace was commissioned on the 3rd October, 1972. The second Blast Furnace is scheduled to be commissioned in March, 1974 and the third in October, 1974. The two furnaces of the second stage are due for commissioning in November, 1975 and November, 1976 respectively.

3. Up to the end of July, 1973, 64 per cent of structural erection and 60 per cent of equipment erection have been completed on Blast Furnace No. 2. In Blast Furnace No. 3, 28 per cent of structural erection has been completed. The laying of foundations for the Fourth and Fifth

Furnace is almost complete and preparations are in hand for commencing erection work on the Fourth Furnace.

4. The First Blast Furnace has been working without any trouble.

Fals: Press Propaganda about Famine condition in India

*324. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article which appeared in the 'Newsweek' dated the 4th June, 1973 under the caption "The year of the Famine" giving false and exaggerated statement of famine conditions in India; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to counter this propaganda in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b). Factual information on the food situation in India and on the steps taken by the Government to meet the difficulties created by drought in certain areas has been widely disseminated among the press, radio and the television all over the world.

Indo-U.S.S.R. Talks on the Soviet Aided Projects in India

*326. SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold discussions with the Russian authorities on the Soviet aided projects in India; and

(b) what are the particular projects proposed to be discussed with the Russian authorities?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to hold discussions with Russian authorities on Soviet aided projects in India in the near future.

(b). Does not arise.

Threatened strike by Central Government Employees against the Recommendations of the Third Pay Commission

*329. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government employees have decided to go on strike along-with the Railway employees to protest against the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a). Ministry of Labour has not received any notice or communication regarding the decision of the Central Government employees to go on strike alongwith the Railway employees to protest against the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission.

(b). Does not arise.

Schools run by Max-Muller Bhavan

*332. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH
RAO:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in India where Max-Muller Bhavans are being operated by the Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany at present;

(b) whether these Bhavans have started their own schools in various cities in India; and