

under construction at Badarpur were arrested ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in agreeing to better wages and other facilities for them ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SINCHAI AUR VIDYUT MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) : (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) 173 employees (including 5 women employees) of one of the contractors, viz., Bharat Industrial Works Ltd., were arrested on 31-3-1971.

(b) These workers had gone on strike from 16-3-1971 onwards. The strike ceased to be peaceful and took a violent turn. Arrested persons were among the employees who resorted to intimidating the loyal workers and forcibly preventing them from attending to their duties. In spite of repeated requests and prolonged persuasion by the Project authorities and the police, they continued their violent posture and caused obstructions to the work of the Project. Apprehending breach of peace and damage to plant and machinery, the Additional District Magistrate, who was present, ultimately ordered their arrest.

(c) The workers having been employed by the Contractor, the Project authorities have been prevailing upon the Contractor to provide all facilities to their workers in accordance with the existing laws in consultation with Chief Labour Commissioner, Government of India.

Shortage of Slack Coal for Brick Kilns in Haryana

909. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether 80 per cent of the brick kilns in Jagadhari area in Haryana are being threatened with closure because of the non-availability of slack coal ; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) (SHRI HANUMAN-THAIYA) : (a) This Ministry is not aware of any threatened closure of brick kilns in Jagadhari area in Haryana.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of Refractory

910. SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of refractory in the country ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the production of refractory ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing refractory units have increased their production during the past one year due to increase in the demand for refractories ; these units are allowed to import equipment for balancing their plants to enable them to manufacture refractories of high quality to suit the requirements of steel plants and other industries. Applications for new units as well as for expansion of the existing units to increase the capacity of refractory industry by 1.26 lakh tonnes are under consideration of the Government. It has also been decided, in principle, to set up a public sector refractory unit for a capacity of one lakh tonnes per annum. To meet the requirements of the steel plants etc., imports of refractories have been allowed to a certain extent.

Complaint Regarding non-receipt of Ballot Papers sent to the Army Men at Meerut

911. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE (VIDHI AUR NYAYA MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a report in the Indian Express of the 9th March, 1971 saying that several army men stationed at Meerut have complained that they did not receive their ballot papers for the recent elections ;

(b) whether Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the result thereof and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE