

या वह निर्धारित भवधि में पूरा नहीं हुआ है और वहां मशीनें बमैरह पड़ी हुई हैं ? क्या यह भी सही है कि कुछ अधिकारियों ने उस कार्य को निर्धारित भवधि में पूरा नहीं होने दिया ? क्या आपको इसका पता है ? यदि है तो आपने ऐसे लोगों के खिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही की और इस काम के निर्धारित भवधि में पूरा न होने के कारण कितना नुकसान हुआ ? मशीनें आदि कब तक पूरी तरह काम आवेंगी ?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : There has been a delay in the completion of the work. Sir, it is a complicated job and when an old plant and a new plant are to be put together and intermingled and inter-changed, there is bound to be some delay. So, Sir, there has been some delay than what was estimated but it cannot be pinpointed that because of personal reasons or because of any particular person this delay has taken place. This delay could not have been envisaged earlier.

MR SPEAKER : Question-Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Insurance cover for employees drawing more than Rs. 500 p.m.

*427. **SHRI PRASANNBHAI MEHTA :** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government was approached by the Employees State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi to give relief to those workers who had crossed the wage limit of Rs. 500 per month and were therefore neither covered under the ESI Act nor under the Workmen's Compensation Act;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government ;

(c) whether payment of the employment injury benefits to workers for the period during which they were not covered under the ESI Act was also demanded; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Union Government to their points ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KIRPAL SINHA) :

(a) Yes, Sir. The Employees' State Insurance Corporation had approached the Central Government for raising the wage ceiling for coverage under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 1000/- per month.

(b) The necessary amendment relating to revision of wage limit etc. was made by the Employees' State Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1975 and the revised wage limit of Rs. 1000/- per month was enforced w.e.f. 30-11-1975.

(c) The E.S.I. Corporation did not make any such demand. However, this was demanded by some trade unions.

(d) The nature of the ESI Schemes such that it is not possible to give retrospective effect to its provision for the grant of benefits, including cash benefit for employment injury.

Iranian aid for Kudremukh Project in Karnataka

*428. **SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have secured 630 million dollar aid from Iran for Kudremukh Project in Karnataka;

(b) whether the organisational set up of the project is completed; and

(c) if not, the details regarding its progress and the time by which it is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK) :

(a) Yes, Sir. According to the Financial Agreement signed on the 4th November, 1975, the Imperial Government of Iran has established a credit not exceeding US \$ 630 million in favour of Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd. for meeting the cost of implementation of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Project.

(b) and (c). The organisational set-up of the Project is fully geared to its successful implementation, and the Project is on schedule. Shipment of iron ore concentrate to Iran is to start by the end of August, 1980, as per contract.