

(b) whether any meeting of that group has been held; and

(c) if so, whether any recommendations have been made by the said study group?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) A Working Group consisting of officials of the three countries, which was set up to consider measures for expansion of trade, has been entrusted with negotiations on mutual exchange of preferences.

(b) A meeting of the Working Group was held in Cairo between 14th and 23rd February, 1987.

(c) Preliminary negotiations have taken place on the basis of a common approach evolved by the Working Group and of the ground rules adopted by it. These negotiations are to be continued at the next meeting which is likely to be held shortly.

Dry Port in Delhi

*252. Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:
Shri R. S. Vidyarthi:
Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare Delhi as a Dry Port;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) whether Government have received any representations in this connection?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) to (c). The representation received in this connection is under examination at present in consultation with the concerned Ministries. No decision has been taken so far.

Demands of N.C.D.C. Employees

*253. Dr. Ranee Sen: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the N.C.D.C. employees in Ranchi had submitted a charter of demands including the payment of bonus, gratuity, implementation of the Second Pay Commission's recommendations and other matters; and

(b) if so, the time likely to be taken to fulfil their demands?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These matters are within the purview of the autonomous corporations like the National Coal Development Corporation who are negotiating in the matter with the employees Union at Ranchi with the help of the established Central Labour machinery.

No time limit obviously can be set in such matters.

Industrial Development with Mechanised Agriculture

*254. Shri H. P. Chatterjee:
Shri Dattatraya Kunte:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ford Foundation Seminar held at Patna from the 9th April, 1987 discussed the need to urbanise and balance industrial development with mechanised agriculture in the next 20 years in West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the definite proposals suggested for the purpose; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the most significant part of the development scheme is the co-ordinated picture of the Bihar-West Bengal industrial belt stretching from Ranchi to Durgapur?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) It is understood that the Government of Bihar in collaboration with the Ford Foundation organised a Seminar on Urban Development in Patna on the 9th and 10th April, 1967. The information about the matters discussed in the Seminar are being obtained from the Bihar Government.

(b) and (c). Information is being obtained from the Government of Bihar.

The information will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is available.

Unsold Stock of Handloom Products

*255. Shri V. Krishnamoorthi: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of huge stocks of handloom products lying unsold in Madras State; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to find suitable foreign markets to dispose the heavy stocks from Madras State?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce (Shri Shaif Qureshi): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-510/67].

Supply of Steel to Exporters of Engineering Goods

*256. Shri K. E. Ganesh:
Shri Chandra Jee Yadav:
Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri K. Anrudhan:
Shri P. P. Esthose:
Shri K. M. Abraham:
Shri Umanath:
Shri Viswanatha Menon:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make available steel to exporters of

engineering goods at "International Prices";

(b) the amount of subsidy that Government will have to bear to implement this proposal; and

(c) the difference between the 'International' and 'Indian Price' of Steel per ton at present?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) Yes, Sir. A copy of the scheme announced by the Joint Plant Committee is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-506/67].

(b) The expenditure will be borne by the producers, and not by Government. The expenditure incurred will depend upon the export performance of the manufacturers of engineering goods.

(c) The difference between the international and Indian base prices ranges between Rs. 30 and Rs. 200 per tonne according to the category of steel.

Rise in Price of Steel

*257. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether any calculation has been made of the financial implications of the new rise in the price of steel; and

(b) the extent to which it will affect the various public sector projects and undertakings which consume steel?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Average increase comes to about Rs. 53 per tonne for steel and Rs. 22 per tonne for pig iron. Government departments and Public Sector Undertakings may have to pay about Rs. 9 crores more for their requirements of steel, every year.