

further technical assistance to the Durgapur Steel Plant in India over a two year period commencing from October, 1971. The Government of the United Kingdom would allocate sums not exceeding £ 500 000 from the funds available for British Technical Assistance under the Colombo Plan to cover the sterling cost of this technical assistance.

The essence of the technical assistance programme is a succession of short term task-oriented visits by experts drawn from British Industry.

This programme will provide Durgapur Steel Plant with expert technical advice to resolve certain critical technological problems facing the Plant.

Facilities for Labourers engaged in stone-breaking at Pakur in Bihar

2761. SHRI N. E. HORO : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for extending the facilities enjoyed by the Coal mine workers to the labourers engaged in stone-breaking at Pakur, Santhal Pargana in Bihar ; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b). A proposal for the setting up of a common Welfare Fund which will cover the workers employed in certain mining industries, including stone quarries, is under the consideration of the Government. The details of the proposal are being worked out.

Misuse of Hospitals under ESIC in West Bengal

2762. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the hospitals newly constructed by Employees' State Insurance Corporation in West Bengal are being used for stationing C. R. P. and Police ;

(b) if so, which are those hospitals ; and

(c) the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b). Yes. Only one hospital viz. Employees' State Insurance Hospital at Gauhati was used by the Central Reserve Police Force.

(c) As the hospital has not so far been commissioned, the members of the C. R. P. were accommodated in the hospital purely temporarily. The hospital building has since been vacated and the State Government is taking steps to commission the hospital.

Merger of E. P. F. O. with E. S. I. C.

2763. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the proposal of merger of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation with that of Employees' State Insurance Corporation ;

(b) whether Employees' State Insurance Corporation is an older Institution than Employees' Provident Fund Organisation ; and

(c) if so, Government's views in regard to giving protection to the employees of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation in the case of merger ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) A Special Officer was appointed to examine the legal, administrative and Organisational matters connected with the integration of the Social Security Schemes in a comprehensive manner. His Report has been received and is under examination.

Trial of Pak War Criminals

2764. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of India has supported appointment of an International