

tion of posts, payment of heat and dust allowances and time bound promotion after completion of three years.

(c) On receipt of the charters of demands from the Bokaro Steel Workers Union (affiliated to INTUC), and Bokaro Kamgar Union (affiliated to AITUC) tripartite discussions were held before the Conciliation Officer, Bokaro Steel City. Bipartite discussions were also held with these unions on a number of times. While negotiations with these unions were in progress, another union namely, Bokaro Steel Rashtriya Mazdoor Sangh (BSRMS) affiliated to BMS, gave a notice of strike alongwith a charter of demands. The Labour Superintendent-cum-Conciliation Officer, Bokaro Steel City initiated conciliation proceedings and invited representatives of the management and the union for discussions on 2-4-1985. The representatives of the union raised certain objections and did not participate in the discussions and thus forced the Conciliation Officer to close the conciliation proceedings. The Workers of the Blast Furnace Department under the leadership of this Union had gone on strike with effect from 5-4-1985 inspite of the advice of the Conciliation Officer not to go on strike as it would be illegal. On 8-4-1985, the Government of Bihar while declaring the strike illegal, directed the union to call off the strike immediately. The union, however, did not accept the directive of the Government of Bihar. On 18-4-1985 with the efforts of the Labour Commissioner, Government of Bihar, a tripartite settlement was reached in which it was agreed that certain demands would be referred for arbitration and that no indicative action would be taken by the management against the workmen for participating in the strike and that the strike would be called off immediately. The strike has since been called off from 13-5-1985.

Discovery of Mica Deposits in Orissa

7100. SHRI RADHA KANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of STEEL,

MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have discovered mica deposits in Phulabani and other districts in Orissa;

(b) whether survey has also been conducted and deposits of mica found in the adjoining districts of Phulabani;

(c) if so the quantity of mica deposits estimated in these parts of Orissa; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for proper exploitation of mica in Phulabani and other districts of Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :
(a) to (d). No deposits of mica have been discovered recently in Phulabani or other districts of Orissa. However, minor occurrences of mica have been reported from some parts of Orissa and a small quantity was mined in 1981.

Import of Natural Rubber Copra and Coconut Oil

7101. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether imports of natural rubber, copra and coconut oil are envisaged in the new import policy;

(b) if so, the reasons underlying this policy;

(c) whether Government have received any representation against this from Government of Kerala and other organisations in Kerala;

(d) the quantity envisaged to be imported during the next three years of the import policy; and

(e) the categories and entitlement policy for these licences ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (e). The position with regard to import of natural rubber, copra and coconut oil in the import policy is as follows:

Natural Rubber: Import of natural rubber is canalised through STC.

Coconut Oil and Copra: Import of copra and coconut oil is canalised through State Trading Corporation of India/Hindustan vegetable Oil Corporation. Direct Import of Copra and coconut oil is also permissible to a limited extent under the import policy for registered exporters against valid REP licences issued on certain exports as well as against flexibility allowed in the use of REP licences to manufacturers exporters.

This policy is with a view to protect the interests of growers as well as consumers by way of importing bare minimum quantity to bridge the gap between demand and supply and its release is made at prices which help to control the internal market prices at levels remunerative to the growers.

Representations have been received from Rubber, growers Association of Kerala against import of natural rubber.

The quantity of rubber, coconut oil and copra to be imported in the next three years period as a whole has not been decided.

Building for Rubber Board, Kottayam

7102. **SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many of the Commodity Boards under his Ministry own buildings of their own to house the head offices;

(b) whether the Rubber Board, Kottayam has submitted a proposal to build its own head office;

(c) when the proposal was given in this regard.

(d) whether the foundation stone for the building has been laid, if so, when it was laid and by whom;

(e) the reason for the delay in executing the proposal;

(f) when Government propose to give the tender for the construction of the building; and

(g) whether Government are aware that delay in executing the project will increase the cost of construction and thereby causing further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH): (a) Excepting Tea Board and Coffee Board, no other Commodity Board under the Ministry of Commerce is owning building of its own to house the Head Office.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. Rubber Board submitted the proposal in June, 1984 and subsequent clarifications were given in February, 1985.

(d) Foundation stone for the Head Office building was laid on 4th February, 1984 by the Union Minister of Commerce.

(e) to (g). Details of estimated costs of construction based on requirement of space are being examined and construction will be taken up after the proposal is approved by the E.F.C.

Closure/Lockouts of Industrial Units in West Bengal Financed by IRBI

7103. **SHRI DEBI GHOSAL:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the industrial units financed/managed by the Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) in West Bengal have declared closure/lockouts;

(b) if so, the number of such units;

(c) the number of workers affected by such lock-outs/closures;