

Ltd. in the last three years with year-wise break-up giving the names and dates of awards and the unions involved; and

(b) the awards which remained unimplemented and the steps taken thereon, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Subsidiary to weaver societies in Bihar

3597. SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether weavers societies in Bihar had allowed rebate on their products in 1971 as per the policy of Union Government but the amount of the subsidy to cover this rebate is still due from Government and on the other hand the loans sanctioned to those societies by the banks and federations have not been released by them because of non-payment of subsidy money by Government and the societies are now not in a position to provide work to their members; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above amount will be paid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) During 1971 as per the then prevalent Rebate scheme, the weavers societies were allowed to offer rebate on sales of handloom cloth. No claim from the Bihar Government for Rebate payments pertaining to this period is pending with the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Earnings through levy of import duty on foreign vessels imported

3598. SHRI M. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of earnings through the levy of import duty on foreign vessels imported by India through the Metal Scrap Trading Corporation during the last two years;

(b) whether Government propose to consider to lower the rate of duty in view of the recent loss experienced by the ship breaking companies which have had to pay unnecessarily high prices for their procurement; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to extend all possible aid including reduction of duty to step up the development of ship breaking units in India especially since their counter parts in Taiwan, S. Korea, Spain, Pakistan, China and Bangladesh are said to be flourishing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

(c) The Ship-breaking units are being helped by the Government by supplying their input material, namely, old ships for breaking, to the extent considered necessary for import having regard to the overall demand for, and supply of, steel re rolled items in the country. Apart from this, financial assistance is also being provided by Ferrous Scrap Committee for purchase of necessary equipment by shipbreakers and by Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited by giving bill discounting facilities.

Delay in commencement of construction work of LIC building at Vijayawada

3599. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the office situated in the L.I.C. building located in Besant Road, Vijayawada was shifted to a rented accommodation at the rate of Rs. 10,000 per month in Arundel Municipal complex with a view to enable to take up construction of nine storeyed building;

(b) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay in commencement of construction work at Vijayawada where 25 to 30 crores of rupees business of insurance is made every year; and

(c) the date by which the work is likely to commence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Branch Office of the LIC located in the building at Besant Road, Vijayawada, was shifted to Arundel Municipal Complex accommodation at a monthly rent of Rs. 9760.

(b) and (c) The LIC have a proposal to re-develop the property at Besant Road after demolition of the existing building. However, vacant possession is yet to be obtained of some parts of the building. Action to get premises vacated has been taken. After vacant possession of all the parts of the building is obtained demolition work will be undertaken. Tenders have been invited meanwhile for demolition work of the structure.

Negotiation for foreign loans by State Government Enterprises

3600 SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the public enterprises of State Government can negotiate foreign loans without permission from the Union Government;

(b) whether in 1984-85 Kerala State Electricity Board has successfully negotiated Rs. 500 crores loan from the Government of Canada or any financial institution in Canada;

(c) whether the loan was negotiated after obtaining prior sanction from Government; and

(d) if not, the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Discovery of precious stones in Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of Orissa

3601. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have found the deposits of some precious stones in Bolangir and Kalahandi districts in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details of the survey reports submitted by the Geological Survey of India and State Mining Department in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANTI SATHÉ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a result of surveys carried out by Geological Survey of India and State Mining Department of Orissa, only small pockets and sporadic occurrences of Sapphire, Garnet and Aquamarine have been reported from Kariakot, Badiamura, Lanji and Sinapali areas in Kalahandi district and aquamarine from Birmaharajpur, Patnagath Sangamra areas in Bolangir district. Garnets also found near Talpadar and Damjnor in Kalahandi district and beryl around Gochhapara, Antaria and Mannipada.

Purchase of cotton in Andhra Pradesh by Cotton Corporation of India

3602. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that nearly one lakh bales of cotton are lying with the farmers of Guntur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradesh and the Cotton Corporation of India is not buying cotton even at the minimum price;

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken by Government to purchase huge stocks of cotton produced by the small farmers of Guntur and Prakasam Districts,