

Labour Unrest on Jawaharlal Nehru Port

9212. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jawaharlal Nehru Port is facing labour unrest;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to overcome the problem?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The demands raised on behalf of a section of the workers and staff of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port has been discussed by the Management the representatives of workers and staff from time to time. Since January, 1989, discussions were held seven times and 21 demands on different issues were settled.

USSR and Japan's Views on Kashmir Issue

9213. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether USSR and Japan have advised both India and Pakistan to solve the Kashmir issue in the letter and spirit of the Shimla agreement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Pakistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). In a statement issued on 13.4.90 the USSR Government urged a peaceful and political

dialogue on the basis of the Simla Agreement. In a statement issued on 17.4.90 the Government of Japan expressed the hope that the Government of India and Pakistan would exercise restraint and try to solve this issue peacefully through talks based on the Simla Agreement.

Pakistan, however, is persisting with its attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue in clear violation of the Simla Agreement. While repeatedly expressing its proforma readiness to hold bilateral talks with India to resolve these differences and to deescalate the situation, it is continuing with its support to subversion and terrorism directed against India.

Conversion of Telephone Exchanges in East and West Champaran Districts of Bihar

9214. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conversion of Raxaul, Narkatiaganj, Ramnagar, Bettiah, Loria, Ramgarba exchanges in Bihar have been sanctioned for conversion into electronic exchanges in place of existing SAX and Manual exchanges; and

(b) if so, the details of programme of their conversion and progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir except Bettiah exchange which has been installed in recent years.

(b) The conversion programme details are as under: