

Representation from Workers of Ore Handling Plant at Visakhapatnam Port Trust affected with Diseases

2567. SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some workers of Ore Handling Plant in Visakhapatnam Port Trust were affected with Tuberculosis, chest pain and pleurisy due to the uncontrollable iron ore dust at the Plant;

(b) whether Government have received any representation about this; and

(c) if so, the action taken on the representations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) During periodical medical examination, only four workers of Ore Handling Plant at Visakhapatnam Port had been found suffering from Tuberculosis. But this was not due to iron ore dust at the Plant, as the medical examination indicated that they had contracted the disease prior to their appointment in the Visakhapatnam Port. No cases of chest pain and pleurisy due to iron ore dust were detected.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Treatment was given to four workers and the symptoms of Tuberculosis were relieved. Exhaustive protective measures have been taken by the Visakhapatnam Port Trust to safeguard the health of the workers.

Lignite Deposits in Kutch

2568. DR. MAHIPATRAY MEHTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge deposits of lignite are found in Kutch district of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the plans with Government for utilisation of these deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) As

a result of investigations carried out by the Geological Survey of India and the State Government of Gujarat, a total reserve of about 204 million tonnes of lignite with a variable overburden ratio has been estimated from seven deposits in Jimarsar, Matanolafri, Jularai, Vaghpadar, Pnandhro, Akrimota, Dhedadi and Mandvi of Kutch district, Gujarat.

(b) The State Government of Gujarat have entrusted the exploitation of the Kutch Lignite to the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation, which is a State enterprise. A techno-economic feasibility report on the use of lignite, submitted by the Central Research Institute, Jealgora, in September, 1972, is presently under study and evaluation by the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Staff in Geological Survey of India

2569. SHRI A. S. KASTURE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the staff strength Class-wise in the Geological Survey of India, as on the 1st April, 1972 and the number of employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) the reasons for not maintaining the required percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees; and

(c) whether specific concessions are given to the Scheduled Castes/Tribes at the time of recruitment and whether these concessions are adequate in view of the shortfall in the number of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) A statement giving the information is enclosed

(b) Shortfall in respect of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Tribes is due to non-availability of suitable candidates. In spite of best efforts, the Scheduled Castes/Tribes candidates for the posts requiring technical and scientific qualifications are