

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND
TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI):**

(a) While the present freight rates for coal and salt on the coast may require revision, the present bunkering surcharge do not.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is hoped in the near future

**Diplomatic Relations with P.R.G. of
South Vietnam**

554. **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken to establish formal diplomatic relations with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam; and

(b) if so, the facts thereabout?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AF-
FAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS):** (a) and (b). The attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to the statement made on 1st August, 1974 in the Rajya Sabha by the former Foreign Minister expressing India's desire to have "more direct relations and formal contacts" with the PRG of South Vietnam. As a follow-up to this statement, negotiations are currently being conducted with the representatives of the PRG of South Vietnam in order to work out the precise pattern of these "direct relations and formal contacts".

Geological Survey in Kerala

555. **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI C. JANARDHANAN:**

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) at what stage is now the geological survey conducted in Kerala for finding the quality and quantity of iron ore deposits;

(b) what are the findings of this survey;

(c) whether Government had taken a decision to set up steel plant or any other industry for the utilisation of this iron ore; and

(d) the decision taken on Kerala Government's proposed schemes in this connection?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES
(SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD):** (a) and (b). A total reserve of 44,00 million tonnes of iron ore with 31.46 to 41.24 per cent iron has been estimated in the four blocks comprising Cheruppa, Nonminda, Nanduvallur and Elliyettimala in Kozhikode district of Kerala. Investigation for iron ore in the fifth block Alampara has also been completed and a report incorporating the reserve and grade of iron ore available in this area is being finalised.

Investigations by drilling are in progress in Korattimala near Nilambur, Malappuram District Kerala and the balance drilling is likely to be completed in 1975.

(c) Any decision on exploitation of these deposits can be taken only after the finalisation of the report on Alampara deposit and overall assessment of the area as a whole in the context of infra-structure availability and economic feasibility of exploitation for internal consumption or export.

(d) No scheme has till now been received in this Department from Kerala Government in this connection.

Lock-out in Public Corporations

556 **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Corporations like Indian Airlines Corporation, Air India, and Life Insurance Corporation declare lock-out if the workers go on strike; and