

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) While export of pig iron would obviously earn larger quantum of foreign exchange per unit for the country the relative benefits of export of pig iron vis-a-vis iron ore would depend on several factors like availability, infra-structural facilities, cost of production, world demand, etc. There is no proposal to set up plants exclusively for conversion of iron ore into pig iron for export purposes other than the plans for expansion of steel industry in the country.

Supply of cement and iron rods to Nepal

5435. SHRI P. M. MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has made it clear to Nepal that she will not be able to supply various commodities like cement and iron rods after the 31st December, 1974;

(b) if so, the main reasons given by India;

(c) the reaction of Nepal Government; and

(d) what were the conditions on which India agreed to supply these commodities to Nepal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Assurances given by West Bengal Government to jute workers

5436. SHRI ROBIN SEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that jute workers and their unions are complaining that the assurances given by West Bengal Government and agreement made during the 33-days strike in January-February, 1974 were not implemented; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) Government of West Bengal and the Labour Ministry are seized of the problems relating to demands in the nature of trade union disputes

Attitude of jute barons towards workers

5437. SHRI RABIN SEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the attitude of Jute barons, who are forcing the jute workers to go in for another strike by not implementing their assurances; and

(b) if so, the steps taken against the jute barons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) and (b). The notice of strike given by the National Union of Jute Workers has raised issues which are in the nature of an industrial dispute. The Government of West Bengal have initiated conciliation talks on the demands included in the strike notice.