

programmes like dairy, poultry, pig-gery, etc. In addition, agricultural labourers, who usually find only seasonal employment are provided employment opportunities during the slack-seasons under rural works programmes in Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers' Projects. For this provision of upto Rs. 20.00 lakhs has been made for five year project period ending 1975-76. The two Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers' Projects in West Bengal have identified 2486 and 481 agricultural labourers respectively for benefits under various programmes. The corresponding figures of agricultural labourers who were provided off season employment under the rural works programmes in the two projects are 738 and 400 respectively.

An important objective of the Fourth Plan in the agricultural sector, was to enable as large a section of the rural population as possible, including the small cultivator, the farmer in dry areas and the agricultural labour to participate in development and share its benefits. For achieving this objective, the Rural Works Programme was started in 1970-71 (in the Non-Plan Central Sector) and was subsequently redesignated as Drought Prone Areas Programme, which applies to the State of West Bengal also.

A Standing Committee of Agricultural labour consisting of Economists, Experts, Officials of State Governments and Ministries of the Government of India has been set up *inter alia* to riview the existing legislative and other provisions for the Welfare of agricultural labour.

Agriculture is a scheduled employment under the Minimum Wage Act, 1948. Under this Act the appropriate Government fixes the wage rates of different categories of agricultural labourers from time to time.

Revision of cost of Cochin Shipyard

427. SHRI C. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimated cost of the Cochin Shipyard has been revised to Rs. 75 crores from Rs. 47 crores; 3455 LS—3.

(b) if so, the facts and reasons therefor; and

(c) the present stage of the work of the Cochin Shipyard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI):
(a) Proposals for the revision of the original cost of Rs. 45.42 crores to Rs. 74.29 crores have been received from Cochin Shipyard Limited and are presently under consideration of the Government.

(b) Basic factors which have contributed to the increase in the estimated cost are:—

- (i) Increase in cost of materials and labour since 1968, when the original estimate was prepared.
- (ii) Increase due to modifications found necessary during detailed design/construction.
- (iii) Increase on account of Sales Tax, consequent on the transfer of the Project from Government to Company.
- (iv) Increase in customs duty.
- (v) Increase in the value of contracts for major items of work, resulting from various contributory factors.

(c) Civil works like land acquisition, reclamation, project roads (1st phase), paint store, oil store, training school complex, compressor room, main receiving station, laboratory weigh bridge and gate house have been completed. Civil works connected with General Store, Maintenance Shop, Hull Shop and Assembly Shop, Locker Rooms, Permanent Power Supply system (1st phase), permanent Water Supply System (Phase II), Machine and Engine Shops and Administrative Block are in progress. The Mould Loft and Out-fitting Warehouse are getting ready. Building Dock has been excavated and enclosed by sheet piles and RCC piling of dock bottom has progressed. Sheet piling of the dock wall of the Repair Dock and Quay No. 2, construction of anchor walls and excavation of earth are progressing. Sheet piling of quays 1 and 3 has been completed. Out of a total of about 332 items of machinery

and equipment required for the project, 261 items including 64 items to be imported have been ordered. Of the items ordered 162 items have already been received, including 53 items from abroad. The remaining equipment are mostly short-lead items.

Decision on recommendations of Bonus Commission Report

428. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision on the recommendations of Bonus Commission Report;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BAL-GOVIND VERMA): (a) to (c). Decisions are yet to be taken on the recommendations made in the report of the Bonus Review Committee.

Regularisation of Ad hoc promotions in office of R.P.F. Commissioner, Patna

429. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether sufficient numbers of Upper Division/Head Clerks working in the office of the Regional Provident Funds Commissioner, Bihar, Patna are still on ad-hoc promotions since long; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not regularising the said ad-hoc promotions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BAL-GOVIND VERMA): The Employees' Provident Fund authorities have reported as under:—

(a) As on 31-12-1974, 6 Head Clerks and 21 Upper Division Clerks were working on ad-hoc basis in the Regional Office, Bihar, Patna.

(b) (i) Non-availability of regular vacancies in the cadre of Head Clerks

as also pendency of disciplinary proceedings in three cases.

(ii) Non-availability of matching number of examination qualified candidates in the cadre of Upper Division Clerks as regularisation in that cadre is made in the ratio of 50:50 between seniority quota and examination quota employees.

तेल उत्पादन करनेवाले अरब देशों की अमरीका की कथित धमकी

430 श्री महावीर सिंह शास्त्री : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या अमरीका ने तेल के प्रश्न पर तेल उत्पादन करने वाले अरब देशों को सैनिक कार्रवाई करने की धमकी दी है ,

(ब) क्या इराक सरकार ने भारत की प्रदान धमकी का सारे मामले से अद्वयन कराया है , और

(ग) यदि हा, तो भारत सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री विपिनपाल दाम) : (क) सरकार ने अखबारों की वे खबरे देखी है जो अमरीकी प्रशासन के उच्च अधिकारियों द्वारा दी गई बतायी जाती है और जिसके अनुसार गभीर मकट की कुछ परिस्थितियों में तेल के प्रश्न पर उनके लिये सैनिक कार्रवाई बर्जित नहीं है ।

(ख) और (ग) हमारी प्रधानमंत्री और ईराकी क्रांतिकारी कमान परिषद के उपाध्यक्ष की बातचीत में यह सहमति हुई कि खाड़ी क्षेत्र हर प्रकार के तनाव या बाहरी शक्तियों के दखल से मुक्त रहना चाहिये ताकि इस क्षेत्र के देश अपनी शक्ति आर्थिक विकास लगा सकें ।

Construction of All-weather Road Bridge at Ghograghat

431. SHRI B. R. SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any traffic studies have been made in connection with tem-