

of the Union Labour Minister's decision regarding grant of relief to Badli workers in the jute industry. The State Government are seized of the matter. The State Labour Minister has already held several discussions with the workers and Employers' representatives in an effort to resolve the dispute. The State Industrial Relations Machinery are continuing efforts to secure an early end of the strike.

Restoration of normal diplomatic Relations with Pakistan

591. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main features of the recent agreements between the Governments of Pakistan and India in respect of trade and communication links;

(b) whether any progress has been made in the direction of restoring normal diplomatic relations between the two countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) A Protocol on resumption of trade was signed in November 1974, followed by the signing of a full-fledged agreement on trade in January 1975. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed at the same time reestablishing direct banking channels for the purposes of trade between the two countries. The Protocol and the Agreement on trade envisage that to begin with trade between the two countries will be conducted through Government-controlled Trade Corporations. Some commodities have been identified in which interest was shown by either side. A Protocol for resuming direct shipping services by 15th February 1975 to lift cargoes, destined for either country, was also signed in New Delhi in January, 1975.

(b) and (c). Government's policy on the question of resuming diplomatic relations with Pakistan is that some substance should first be given to the various steps envisaged in the Simla Agreement for normalisation of relations between the two countries. Agreements have yet to be finalised on resumption of air links including overflights and on scientific and cultural exchanges as envisaged in the Simla Agreement.

Ship Building yard at Haldia

592 SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether decision has been taken to set up a Ship-building yard at Haldia;

(b) if so the facts thereabout; and

(c) the policy decision and location regarding setting up of ship-building yards during the period of next plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Two new shipbuilding yards are proposed to be set up during the current Plan period. Their location, however, is yet to be decided.

No policy decision about establishment and location of Shipyards in the next Plan i.e. the Sixth Plan, has so far been taken

Release of Ganga waters through Farakka

593. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether uncertainties regarding releasing Ganga waters through Farakka are creating serious problems