

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

for shipping of outgoing and incoming ships through the Hooghly to Calcutta and Haldia Ports;

(b) if so, the difficulties thereabout and

(c) the steps taken by Government to remove these difficulties?

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

(a) to (c) In the absence of perennial upland flow from the Ganga, there has been increasingly heavy silting in the Hooghly river which, over the years has resulted in a progressive reduction of the draught available for navigation. There has been serious fall of depth at places particularly on bars imposing considerable restrictions in the movement of vessels and drastic reduction of draughts. The channel in a critical reach of about 30 miles below Calcutta has continued to become narrow and on many occasions the two way movement of ships cannot be fully sustained. With the choking of the river siltation has progressed considerably seaward and has resulted in instability of Balari Bar 50 miles below Calcutta immediately above Haldia. Various river training measures and intensive dredging in critical reaches have been taken up in the last few years.

Visit of U.S. Mine Trade Mission to India

594 SHRI N K SANGHI Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 550 on the 19th December, 1974 and state-

(a) whether the team had offered to make US investment both in money and equipment to develop the mining industries, particularly non-ferrous metal and coal; and

(b) if so, the terms of the offer and whether Government have examined them and their reaction in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Employees in M/s J B Mangharam and Company, M/s Jeewan Foods, Bombay, M/s Mangharam and Sons, Bombay and M/s International Foods, Bombay

596 SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) the present number of temporary and permanent employees in Messrs. J B Mangharam and Company, Messrs. Jeewan Foods, Bombay (Factory in Hyderabad), Messrs Mangharam and Sons, Bombay (Factory in Bangalore) and Messrs International Foods, Bombay (Factory in Hyderabad); and

(b) the amount of provident fund, gratuity, bonus etc of the employees, due from the aforesaid firms, separately and the break up thereof for the years 1972-73 and 1973-74 separately?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BAL GOVIND VERMA) (a) and (b) The information is being collected. It will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

शाहजहांपुर आयुध कारखाने में लाखों रुपये का गबन

597 श्री हुकम चन्द कछबाय : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह ज्ञानने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सरकार को इस प्रकार की शिकायते प्राप्त हुई हैं कि शाहजहांपुर आयुध कारखाने में वस्त्र उत्पादन के लिए बाजार में जो माल खरीदा गया वह घटिया स्तर का था ;

(ख) क्या हम सौदे में अधिकारियों ने लाखों रुपये का गबन किया है ,