

Vishakhapatnam to Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact of discontinuance of the Cargo-service on the economy of the Islands?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) The Shipping Sub-Committee and the Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted by the Government of India in 1966 and 1968 respectively made no recommendations on M.V. "Vishwa Anand". Only at the inter-Ministerial meeting held in September 1973, it was agreed that M.V. "Nicobar" would be replaced by a small cargo vessel viz., M.V. "Vishwa Anand" from the Corporation's own fleet by the end of 1973. This was done by the Corporation in October, 1973. This vessel was subsequently withdrawn from the Mainland Andaman Services in December 1974.

(b) and (c). The vessel was withdrawn by the Corporation from the Andaman Services as it was found that the other three vessels already plying in this Sector viz, MV "Andaman" MV "State of Haryana" and MV "Shompen" could adequately cater to the existing traffic by better utilisation of the available space in these vessels. Withdrawal of MV "Vishwa Anand" would not therefore, affect the economy of the Island.

#### Supply of Coking Coal to Bokaro Steel Plant

\*152. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Ministry of Energy and Bharat Coking Coal Limited, have expressed their inability to supply the required quantum of coking coal for the second blast furnace of Bokaro Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Compensation for Lay-off in Kanpur

\*154. SHRI ROBIN SEN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the decision of the Mill owners of Kanpur not to pay any compensation for lay-off on account of non-availability of electricity; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY):

(a) and (b). Presumably reference is to the reported directive from the Employers' Association of Northern India during November, 1974 following which the authorities of some of the textile mills in Uttar Pradesh were reported to have decided to pay lay off compensation strictly in terms of the Uttar Pradesh Industrial Disputes Act which *inter alia* provides that lay off compensation after the expiry of first 45 days would be payable if the lay off comprises continuous period of one week or more beyond the first 45 days. According to the report dated December 7, 1974 from the Government of Uttar Pradesh which is the appropriate Government in this case under the Industrial Disputes Act, workers affected by lay-offs are being paid lay-off compensation as admissible under the law, and that if specific complaints, if any, regarding violations of the statutory provisions in this regard were brought to the notice of the State Government, necessary legal