

(b) the steps taken by the Government to meet the contingencies arising out of the instability in that region?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YESHWANTRA CHAVAN):** (a) and (b) The Government is fully conscious of the situation across our borders in the context of safeguarding the security of the nation and in the light of all relevant factors including the stability of neighbouring regions. The Government continues to exercise constant vigilance in this respect.

**Construction of Pahlezaghat-Muzaffarpur National Highway**

**\*58. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to make Pahlezaghat-Muzaffarpur—Sitamarhi—Sonbarsa road in Bihar a national highway; and

(b) if so, the reason for the delay in the execution of this project?

**THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (DR. G. S. DHIL-LON):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Minimum Wages to Workers engaged in China Clay and Copper Mines**

**\*57. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA:**  
**SARDAR SWARAN SINGH SOKHI:**

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to revise the minimum wages of workers engaged in China clay, clay and white clay, gypsum and barytes and copper mines; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to implement it?

1846 LS—2.

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY):** (a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Proposals have been published inviting suggestions/comments, of the concerned interests, as required under the Act, for initial fixation of minimum wages in china clay, clay, white clay and copper mines and for revision of existing minimum wages in gypsum and barytes mines. The proposals will be finalised in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Act as early as possible.

**Commissioning of Bokaro Steel Plant**

**\*58 SHRI D. K. PANDA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major units of Bokaro Steel Plant have been commissioned and have fulfilled their targets; and

(b) the time it would take to commission all the units in the Bokaro Steel Plant?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV):** (a) and (b) All the Major units of the first stage of the Bokaro Steel Plant, except two blast furnaces, two coke oven batteries, two steel converters, and the cold rolling mill, have been commissioned. The remaining units are expected to be commissioned this year. The second stage of 4 million tonnes is expected to be commissioned by December, 1977.

The one blast furnace which is in operation has consistently exceeded its rated capacity. In the case of the Steel Melting Shop and Slabbing Mill production had to be restricted for want of off-take as the finishing mills were not ready.

**Alleged termination of Services of Girls by Private Firm at Visakhapatnam**

**\*59. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: