

(b) whether any meeting of that group has been held; and

(c) if so, whether any recommendations have been made by the said study group?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) A Working Group consisting of officials of the three countries, which was set up to consider measures for expansion of trade, has been entrusted with negotiations on mutual exchange of preferences.

(b) A meeting of the Working Group was held in Cairo between 14th and 23rd February, 1987.

(c) Preliminary negotiations have taken place on the basis of a common approach evolved by the Working Group and of the ground rules adopted by it. These negotiations are to be continued at the next meeting which is likely to be held shortly.

Dry Port in Delhi

*252. Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:
Shri R. S. Vidyarthi:
Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare Delhi as a Dry Port;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) whether Government have received any representations in this connection?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) to (c). The representation received in this connection is under examination at present in consultation with the concerned Ministries. No decision has been taken so far.

Demands of N.C.D.C. Employees

*253. Dr. Ranee Sen: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the N.C.D.C. employees in Ranchi had submitted a charter of demands including the payment of bonus, gratuity, implementation of the Second Pay Commission's recommendations and other matters; and

(b) if so, the time likely to be taken to fulfil their demands?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These matters are within the purview of the autonomous corporations like the National Coal Development Corporation who are negotiating in the matter with the employees Union at Ranchi with the help of the established Central Labour machinery.

No time limit obviously can be set in such matters.

Industrial Development with Mechanised Agriculture

*254. Shri H. P. Chatterjee:
Shri Dattatraya Kunte:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ford Foundation Seminar held at Patna from the 9th April, 1987 discussed the need to urbanise and balance industrial development with mechanised agriculture in the next 20 years in West Bengal;

(b) if so, what are the definite proposals suggested for the purpose; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the most significant part of the development scheme is the co-ordinated picture of the Bihar-West Bengal industrial belt stretching from Ranchi to Durgapur?