

commissioned in December, 1976. The Harbour has been in operation since then.

(c) The original estimate was Rs. 36.97 crores sanctioned in 1969 based on the costs prevailing in 1968. The revised estimate sanctioned in May 1978 was Rs. 104.70 crores.

(d) Original estimate was revised only once. The increase was on account of:—

(i) Modifications introduced during execution accounting for Rs. 275.62 lakhs,

(ii) Additions due to changes in design during execution accounting for Rs. 2,557.20 lakhs, and

(iii) Cost, escalation of Rs. 4,415.10 lakhs.

Escalation in the cost of project was due to steep rise in prices of petroleum products, steel, cement, electrical and mechanical goods and other materials. (The wholesale price index for all commodities increased from 161 in 1967 to 179.2 in 1972 and 304 in 1974).

Rates for handling iron ore by Vishakhapatnam Port Trust

740. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that against the cost based rate of Rs. 41.90 per tonne for handling iron ore at the outer harbour, the rate allowed to the Vishakhapatnam Port Trust by Government was only Rs. 15.55 per tonne for 1976-77, Rs. 18.15 per tonne for 1977-78 and Rs. 21.07 per tonne since last April, 1978;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same and what is the rate allowed at present;

(c) what is the total loss sustained due to the above reasons; and

(d) in what manner this loss is proposed to be made up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) Yes.

(b) Compulsions of international market. A consolidated rate of Rs. 30.15 per tonne has since been notified; impact of this rate will be Rs. 27.00 per tonne on cargo and about Rs. 3.15 per tonne on shipping.

(c) Deficit of Rs. 26 crores approximately.

(d) The efforts to make up the deficit from the exporters of Iron Ore are afoot. To the extent deficit are not recovered from the export trade, grant of suitable relief will be considered.

Arrears of demurrage charges due from Badarpur Thermal Power Plant

741. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, for the period beginning from May, 1973 to January, 1979, the Badarpur Thermal Power Plant authorities became liable to pay to the Railway Administration about Rs. 3.62 crores by way of demurrage charges for heavy detention of the rolling stock;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a major portion of these dues was written off; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the amount that remains to be recovered from the Thermal Plant authorities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The requisite information is under collection and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

742. [Transferred to the 25th June, 1980.]

Collection of Godown Rent from Neighbouring Country for Storing Cement

743. SHRI PILOO MODY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state: