

tions of liberalisation of trade, industrial development, external debt problem, energy, drug trafficking, and the special problems of pacific island States.

(b) Action on the specific recommendations of the Commonwealth Conference in London in June 1977 has been initiated through the Commonwealth Secretariat and the members concerned.

Exploitation of Mineral resources in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*108. SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:
SHRI LALBUJA:
SHRI JAGAN NATH BHAR-DWAJ:
SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 794 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd December, 1977 and state: what are Government's proposals for further exploring and exploiting the mineral resources in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): Mineral investigations in Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands by Geological Survey of India are still continuing and the programme during the current field season (1977-78) includes survey of ultramafic rocks for platinum, cobalt, nickel, chromium etc.; search for diatomaceous earth and an integrated survey for copper mineralization.

The investigations are still at a preliminary stage and until these have been completed and economic viability of the deposits established, the question of any exploitation of these minerals is premature.

भिलाई इस्पात संयंत्र में कामगारों को मजदूरी का भुगतान

*109. श्री रामानन्द यादव :
श्री प्यारे लाल कुरील उर्फ तालिब :

क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भिलाई इस्पात संयंत्र के विस्तार कार्य में दिहाड़ी के आधार पर नियोजित श्रमिकों को ठेकेदारों द्वारा 3 रुपये प्रति दिन की दर से भुगतान किया जा रहा है जबकि दिहाड़ी के आधार पर नियोजित श्रमिकों को भिलाई इस्पात संयंत्र द्वारा 9 रुपये प्रति दिन की दर से भुगतान किया जा रहा है ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार भिलाई इस्पात संयंत्र के विस्तार कार्य के लिए ठेकेदारों द्वारा दिहाड़ी के आधार पर नियोजित श्रमिकों को 9 रुपये प्रति दिन की दर से भुगतान कराने के लिए कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है ?

†[Payment of wages to workers in the Bhilai Steel Plant

*109. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV:
SHRI PIARE LALL
KUREEL urf PIARE
LALL TALIB:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the labourers employed on daily wage basis on the expansion work of the Bhilai Steel Plant are being paid at the rate of Rs. 3 per day by the contractors whereas the labourers employed on daily wage basis by the Bhilai Steel Plant are being paid at the rate of Rs. 9/- per day; and

†[] English translation.