

As this scheme was neither included in the Fourth Plan nor does it find place in the draft Fifth Plan, the State Government has now suggested a lump sum provision of Rs. 25 lakhs as a part of the scheme costing Rs. 258.56 lakhs for improvement of the West Coast Canal, the provision for which is only Rs. 140 lakhs in the list of centrally sponsored schemes included in the Fifth Plan of the Central Government. As this scheme is not one of the schemes included in the Fourth or the Fifth Plan, it can only be considered by Central Government for being approved, only if the State Government accords it higher priority and accommodates it within the provision made for Kerala in the Fifth Plan.

Closing down of Australian Consulate in Calcutta

***127. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL :**

SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Australia have decided to permanently close down their Consulate in Calcutta;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government of India also contemplate to take reciprocal action in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) and (b) We have been officially informed by the Australian Government that the Australian Consulates General in Bombay and Calcutta would be closed down as an economy measure.

(c) The decision of the Australian Government does not call for any reciprocal action on our part.

Alumina Plant in Surguja

***129. SHRI BALRAM DAS :**

SHRI CHAKRAPANI SHUKLA :

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

(a) whether the feasibility report for the establishment of an alumina plant based on the deposits of Mainpat in Surguja district is ready ; and

2—1322 RSS/75

(b) if so, by when the project is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The feasibility report is under examination.

Waiting list for Telephone Connections

***131. SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI :**
SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the waiting list for telephone connections has been drastically reduced following the introduction of deposit fees; and

(b) if so, what are the details regarding the OYT and non-OYT waiting lists in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The Advance Deposit Scheme has been introduced with effect from 1-9-1975. The waiting list as on 31-8-1975 was :

O.Y.T.	2,07,823
Non-O.Y.T.	4,89,721

Upto 28-2-1976 payment of Advance Deposits was received from the following applicants :

O.Y.T.	82,139
Non-O.Y.T.	2,77,437

The period of payment of deposit is upto 15-3-1976.

Shipyard at the Hajira site in Gujarat

***134. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Techno-economic Working group which visited several sites in the country for setting up two special shipyards during the Fifth Five Year Plan period has recommended Hajira site in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the merits of the Hajira site as recommended by the group;

(c) whether the techno-economic feasibility of Hajira site was also studied by the technical consultants; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (DR. G. S. DHILLON) :

(a) Hajira is one of the sites recommended.

(b) These are under examination of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) They are still under examination of the Government.

Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour

*135. SHRI B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of bonded labourers who have so far been freed from their bondage; and

(b) how many of them have been rehabilitated :

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) *The State-wise available number of Bonded Labourers who have so far been freed from their Bondage is as under :*

(1) Andhra Pradesh	14
(2) Bihar	581
(3) Karnataka	22,821
(4) Uttar Pradesh	16,000

(b) *State-wise number of freed Bonded Labour so far rehabilitated is as under :*

(1) *Andhra Pradesh.*—7 Bonded labourers have been sanctioned sheep units (comprising 20 Ewes and 1 Ram) and six of them have been assigned 19 : 72 acres of dry land in Motakatla (v) as the labourers preferred to stay in that village itself. One boy was admitted in Scheduled Castes Boys Hostel Bhadra Chalam.

(2) *Bihar.*—Debt redeemed for Rs. 36,115 and 19.65 acres of land has been restored to freed 581 bonded labourers.

(3) *Karnataka.*—Public Works Department authorities have been requested to provide them in piece works and in tank works. Instructions have also been issued to provide education facilities to the children i.e., those below 15 years should be sent to training centres and should be provided with suitable stipends and children below 9 years must be sent to schools. The

Block Development Officers have been instructed to work on organisation of Co-operative Societies for the released bonded labourers.

(4) *Uttar Pradesh.*—Rehabilitation Scheme for the 16,000 freed bonded labourers has been prepared by the State Government and is under examination.

Hindustan Lever Company's relations with Labour

*136. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :
SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 200 cases relating to disputes of the Hindustan Lever Limited with its workers are at present pending before various courts including the Supreme Court of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that workers of this Company have brought the matter to Government's notice; and

(c) whether in view of this, Government propose to convene a tripartite conference to bring about harmonious employer-employee relations in the company ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) to (c) The matter falls essentially in the State sphere. The Ministry of Labour have no information about the 200 cases referred to. If relevant details were supplied the matter could be looked into in consultation with the State Governments concerned.

Workers rendered jobless in railway wagon manufacturing industry

*137. SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHIN :

SHRI KRISHNA BAHADUR CHETTRI :

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of workers in railway wagon manufacturing industry in West Bengal are out of employment due to want of orders for railway wagons; and