

(b) whether Government are conducting any negotiations with some of the ship building countries for the purchase of ships, if so, with what result; and

(c) whether these countries have offered terms which are not acceptable to Government ?]

नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पंच० एम० त्रिवेदी) : (क) भारतीय नौवहन विकास के लिए, इस प्रकार की किर्मा योजना पर विचार नहीं किया जा रहा है।

(ख) और (ग) हमारे देशों में जहाज खरीदने की संभावनाओं का पता सामान्यतः पोत स्वामियों द्वारा ही लगाया जाता है। परन्तु कुछ मामलों में, विदेशों में भारतीय पोत स्वामियों के पास जहाज बेचने अथवा उनके लिए जहाज निर्माण संबंधी सूचना सरकार को भी प्राप्त होती है। दोनों मामलों में ठेका लेने की बातचीत पोत स्वामियों द्वारा की जाती है। भारी विक्रेता की शर्तों पर पोत स्वामी द्वारा सभी पहलुओं से विचार किया जाता है। जहाज किम किस्म का हो और खरीद की शर्तें क्या हो, इस पर सरकार की स्वीकृति लेनी होती है।

[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI) : (a) No new scheme as such is being considered for developing Indian shipping.

(b) and (c) Possibilities of purchase of ships from other countries are usually explored by shipowners. In some cases, however, information regarding availability of ships for sale to or construction for Indian shipowners in foreign countries is received by Government also. In both cases negotiations leading to contracts are conducted by the shipowners. The terms offered by the prospective seller are duly considered by the shipowner in all their implications. The type of ships and terms of purchases are subject to approval by Government.]

[] English translation.

Closing Down of Cotton Mills

147. DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Laxmi Rattan Cotton Mill and Atherton West Mills have been closed down;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Apex Body has protested against the closure and the management are flouting the decisions of the Apex Body;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to see that closure orders are withdrawn and the Mills are reopened; and

(d) the number of workers affected by these closures ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The number of workers affected by the closure of these two mills is about 5,000. The question of re-opening of the two mills is already under consideration of the Ministry of Commerce who are exploring ways and means to restart these mills.

Non-Applicability of Indian Labour Laws in Salt Lake Free Trade Zone

148. SHRI BIRCHANDRA DEB BURMAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Labour Laws are not applicable to Salt Lake Free Trade Zone in Calcutta;

(b) if so, what are the other such free trade zones in the country where Indian Labour Laws are not applicable ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) There is no Free Trade Zone in the Salt Lake area in Calcutta.

(b) There are two free trade Zones at Kandla and Santa Cruz (Bombay). The

Central Labour Laws extend to the whole of India save to the extent provided in the respective legislations.

Joint Communique on Indo-Bangla Talks

149. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

SHRI S. KUMARAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any communique was issued after the recent talks with special representative of Bangladesh President ; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the same will be laid on the Table of the House ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) and (b) A Joint Press Note was issued. A copy of it has been placed in the Parliament Library.

Telephone Dues from Samachar Bharati

150. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND :

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount due from Samachar Bharati News Agency (Delhi) for teleprinter services;

(b) the steps being taken to recover the same ;

(c) the period for which these arrears have fallen due ;

(d) whether teleprinter lines at various offices have been disconnected ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA) : (a) Rs. 2.23 lakhs.

(b) Bills have been regularly issued to Samachar Bharati. They have not been

prompt in making payments. Efforts through correspondence and discussions have continuously been made to recover the dues. They were also permitted to clear the outstandings in instalments. Service on some of their circuits was also withdrawn.

(c) 1969 onwards to November, 1976.

(d) Yes, Sir, some of the circuits as indicated in (c) below have been disconnected.

(e) List showing names of circuits disconnected for non-payment of over due bills.

S.No.	Name of circuits	Date of disconnection
1.	New Delhi-Jhansi . . .	13-12-75
2.	New Delhi-Jaipur . . .	13-12-75
3.	New Delhi-Meerut . . .	13-12-75
4.	New Delhi-Agra . . .	13-12-75
5.	New Delhi-Bareilly . . .	13-12-75
6.	New Delhi-Chandigarh . . .	13-12-75
7.	New Delhi-Lucknow . . .	13-12-75
8.	New Delhi-Patna . . .	29-11-75
9.	New Delhi-Ahmedabad . . .	29-11-75
10.	New Delhi-Etawah . . .	29-11-75
11.	Calcutta-Patna . . .	24-9-73

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PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Payment of Bonus Rules, 1975.

II. Working Journalists Wage Board (Amendment) Rules, 1976.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Raghunatha Reddy, I beg to lay on the Table :—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Labour Notification G.S.R. No. 2367, dated the 6th September, 1975, publishing the Payment of Bonus Rules, 1975, under sub-section (3) of section 38 of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, read with section 25 of the