

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN : Sir, may I know whether, during the continuance of the emergency, Government thinks that such closures are anti-social and anti-State activities, and whether Government wants to take any action against the management and the owner of this company so that these closures may not be taking place ?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY : Sir, I have already given the information we have got. We have brought it to the notice of the West Bengal Government. And, as I told you, the West Bengal Government is attending to this matter.

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BURMAN : Does the Government intend to undertake any legislation so that closures may not take place during the continuance of the emergency ? Does the Government intend to make a law to prevent closure or to prevent lay-off ?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY : I have answered this question previously that the Government is contemplating this. Various measures are under consideration.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, he has repeated the same answer he gave earlier. We read in the newspapers that Mr. K. K. Birla has pledged his loyalty to the implementation of the 20-point programme. It has appeared in the newspapers that he has given such assurance. May I know whether the Government has found out in how many places they are indulging in lay-off, lock-out and closure of mills, etc., and whether the Government has advised the concerned authorities ? The Birla people should be called and told what that pledge means as far as they are concerned; and they should be told to do certain things and not to do certain things, also with a threat that should they fail to carry out the implementation of their pledge solemnly, the MISA will be awaiting them.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY : Sir, I do not have the information whether

this concern, the Indian Linolium Limited, is managed by Shri K. K. Birla or any other Birla. There are a number of them. Therefore, I am not in a position to state who is exactly in charge of management of this company. The only fact is that there is closure—whether this has been closure or lock-out is a matter to be considered by the West Bengal Government. There is some problem arising out of this company. We have drawn the attention of the West Bengal Government to this. West Bengal Government, being the appropriate Government, are seized of the matter, and I presume they are taking necessary action.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, which part you have enjoyed ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I enjoyed both sides.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No, no. You did not. You solemnly, very quietly heard my thing as you always do. When he replied, you seemed somewhat humoured. Do you think it is a joke ? I think the answer is the biggest joke. All I ask is this : Why not start with the Birlas, force them to implement this thing, the 20-point programme, in their empire of exploitation and plunder ? And that would be a better demonstration of the *bona fides* of the Government and the *mala fides* of the Birlas.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Overseas trading by Indian Shipping

*93. **SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :**

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :

DR. V. B. SINGH :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the percentage of India's overseas trade carried by the Indian shipping ; and

(b) what are the plans for expansion of tonnage of Indian Shipping?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : (a) Indian Shipping is able to carry at present about 23 per cent of the country's overseas trade.

(b) The operational tonnage as on 1-12-1975 was 42.74 lakhs GRT. Further, 12.73 lakhs GRT is under construction for delivery before March, 1979. Purchase of second hand and new ships by various Indian Shipping Companies is also being arranged according to availability of resources.

River Bridge at Banghat in U.P.

***96. SHRI BEZAWADA PAPIREDDI:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 148 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 1973 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a temporary bridge is built over the river at Banghat in Pauri Garhwal District, U.P. which involves huge recurring cost every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the bridge is used for a period of six months in a year;

(c) whether Government propose to construct a pucca bridge over the river to prevent the recurring cost; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for not taking up so far the construction of a pucca bridge?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : (a) A temporary timber bridge is being erected over the river Banghat in Pauri Garhwal District of Uttar Pradesh every year for facility of traffic for the last 20 years and recurring expenditure on the erection and dismantling of the timber structure together with the construction of one side abutment is being incurred every year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The construction of a pucca bridge of 250' span was sanctioned in 1967 at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.93 lakhs.

(d) The construction of a pucca bridge was taken up in hand in 1969 and sub-structure work was completed in 1970. Due to difficult position of steel and dearth of contractors for steel fabrication, supply of steel girders for superstructure was delayed. The work has now been entrusted to the Uttar Pradesh Bridge Construction Corporation. The work of fabrication of superstructure is in progress and the work is expected to be completed by 31st December, 1976.

Electric Arc Furnaces

***100. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :**

DR. V. B. SINGH :

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :

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

(a) the number of electric arc furnaces which have been given licences during the last three years;

(b) what was their capacity for steel production;

(c) what is the total percentage utilisation of the installed mini steel capacity;

(d) whether Government propose to revise its policy on mini steel plants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV) : (a) and (b) During the last three years, 150 electric furnace units have been licensed. Their total licensed capacity per annum is 2.79 million tonnes of mild steel ingots/billets.

(c) The total utilisation in 1975 was 25 per cent of the installed capacity of all electric furnace units.

(d) The Government does not propose to make any change in the policy regarding mini steel plants.