

Conviction of American Nationals

723. SHRI HIMMAT SINH :
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :
DR. V. B. SINGH :
SHRI R. K. MISHRA :
SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a.) whether Government have taken up I with the Government of U. S. A. the issue of Recharl Winn. Harcos and Anthony Allen Fletcher, the two Americans who were arrested in Calcutta in August, 1973 for espionage activities in Calcutta docXs ;

(b) whether these persons have any official connection with the U. S. Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) The matter is still sub-judice and the question of taking it up with the Government of U. S. A. has not arisen.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

Iron Ore Board

724. SHRI R. K. MISHRA : SHRI HIMMAT SINH : SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : DR. V. B. SINGH : SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :

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

(a) whether Government have seen if statement reported to have been made by Shri R. C. Dutt, Chairman, Iron Ore Board to the effect that there was a multiplicity of authorities in regard to iron ore which led to inefficiency and wastage; and

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for setting up a Central Plan Authority and machinery for enforcement of the plan ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Shri R. C. Dutt, Chairman, Iron Ore Board has not stated that there was a multiplicity of authorities in regard to iron ore which led to inefficiency and wastage, though he emphasized the need for integrated planning for the development of iron ore industry and necessary steps are being taken in this regard.

High Power Committee For Resettlement of Refugees

725. SHRI P. N. BISI :
SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE : SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : SHRI K. B. CHETTRI : SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BUR-AGOHAIN : DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred, Question 513 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th March, 1975 and state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision for setting up a high powered committee for looking into the problem of the erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) refugees ;

(b) if so, who are the members of this committee, the terms of reference and by when the committee is expected to submit its report; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the inordinate delay in setting up the committee ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G. VENKAT-SWAMY) : (a) to (c) It is proposed to set up very shortly a Working Group consisting of representatives of the State Government of West Bengal, Planning Commission, Finance Ministry of Government of India and the Department of Rehabilitation Of Government of India to urgently identify the rehabilitation schemes which need to be initiated or continued, to merge as many of them as possible with the development schemes of the State Government ; and to assess the financial assistance which may be needed.

Working of R.I.C. Calcutta

726. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: SHRI K. B. CHETTRI: SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BUR-AGOHAN : DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI:

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1418 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th March, 1975 and state :

(a) whether Government have received the report of the third committee appointed to look into the working of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation, Calcutta ;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations made by the committee for revitalisation of RIC and whether these have been accepted by Government; and

(c) whether the money that has been earmarked for running of RIC for the year 1975-76 is adequate and what is the amount expected to be allocated for the expenditure during the current year and for the Fifth Five Year Plan period ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Provision has been made for Rs. 53 lakhs in Budget Estimates 1975-76, to meet the working capital requirements of the Corporation. This amount is considered adequate as the Board of Directors had also approved the Budget of the Corporation for Rs. 53 lakhs on account of working capital requirements. Capital Budget for 1975-76, as also for the Fifth Five Year Plan period will be determined on the basis of recommendations of the Committee, in consultation with the concerned Ministries.

Rate of Loading and Unloading of Congress

727. SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN; , SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the main problem of our ports is the need for improvement in the rate of loading and unloading of general cargoes ;

(b) whether it is a fact that this is the main cause of unnecessary detention of vessels resulting in heavy charges ; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI) • (a) and (b) No. It is not the main problem.

(c) However, steps are taken to improve the rates of loading and unloading of general cargo at the major ports by improving labour productivity, through mechanical aids, removal of congestion in sheds, etc.

Besides, development programmes as indicated below particularly for handling bulk cargo will help remove congestion