

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how far it has affected the functioning of the Calcutta port; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to redress the grievances of the bargemen?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) The bargemen were on 'work-to-rule' from 26th November, 1974 to 9th December, 1974.

(b) The 'work-to-rule' was launched by the bargemen at the instance of the Calcutta Port Shramik Union demanding 12.5 per cent as bonus for the year 1973-74. The bargemen plied their barges between 0600 hrs. and 1800 hrs. only.

(c) About 6000 out of a total complement of about 10,000 bargemen took part in the agitation. The loading of jute cargo in Calcutta Port was affected by the agitation.

(d) As a result of the intervention of the West Bengal Government, a settlement was arrived at and the agitation withdrawn on 9th December, 1974.

Development Board for Paradip Port

*661. **SHRI RABI RAY:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have sought the views of the Orissa Government in connection with setting up a Development Board for Paradip Port;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to step up the developmental activities of the Port during the last two months?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMLA-

PATI TRIPATHI): (a) and (b). Although no Development Board for Paradip Port as such has been formed, it has been decided to hold inter-Ministerial meetings in the Ministry of Shipping and Transport to discuss matters relating to the Port. One such meeting was held on 8th November, 1974 attended by the representatives of Ministries of Finance, Railways, Department of Mines, MMTC, Government of Orissa and the Port Trust.

(c) In the past two months, discussions have been held in the Ministry as also meetings and action taken up with the authorities concerned in matters relating to the development of the Port like stepping up the supply of iron ore to the Port, revision of Port rates, making certain modifications in the iron ore handling plant to improve its functioning, installation of tipplers, construction of a sea wall for shore protection and handling of Talcher coal through the Port.

Grant of Steel Quotas to Swadeshi Polytex Ltd.

*662. **SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the steel quotas per year allotted to Messers Swadeshi Polytex Limited since its incorporation; and

(b) whether Government are aware that a part of the allotted steel has been sold in the black market by the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) and (b) Presumably the reference is to M/s. Swadeshi Polytex Ltd., having their factory at Ghaziabad. It is being ascertained whether this unit received any iron and steel material from regulated sources and if so, whether the same was utilised for the purpose for which it was applied for/allocated.