

Super Tanker Oil Terminal Project at Cochin

*117. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN :
DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN :
SHRI V. VISWANATHA
MENON :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum exceeding Rs. 2 crores has already been spent for the Super Tanker Oil Terminal Project at Cochin port;

(b) whether cost estimates are likely to increase substantially due to delay on the part of the Central Government in according expenditure sanction for the project; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to expedite financial sanctions for the Project ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI KAMALAPATI TRIPATHI) : (a) The Cochin Port has so far spent Rs. 143 lakhs for the Super Tanker Oil Terminal Project.

(b) The increase in cost estimates of the Project will depend on the trend of prices prevailing in future years.

(c) The detailed project report prepared by the Consultants is under consideration in consultation with the concerned authorities.

Ribats built by Indians in Saudi Arabia

*118. SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN:
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM
KHAN :
SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN
ARIF :
SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA :
SHRI QASIM ALI ABID :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 385 given in Rajya Sabha on the 26th July, 1974 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Ribats set up by the Indians in Saudi

Arabia are now in the possession of Saudi Arabian caretakers, who let out accommodation in those Ribats and utilise the amount collected for their own purpose; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take up the matter with the Saudi Arabian Government to ascertain the number of such Ribats and ensure that they are utilised for the purpose for which they were originally constructed ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The existence of many Ribats, whether they are recognised as Ribats under Indian and Saudi law and whether they may have been endowed or set up by Muslims of India, has been the subject of detailed investigations involving the tracing of old records and correspondence, exchanges of information with the Saudi Arabian authorities and other concerned organisations. Under Saudi Arabian law, the Nazirs (Managers) should be Saudi nationals. The primary responsibility for the proper running of such Ribats rests with the heirs of the Indian endowers and their Nazirs in Saudi Arabia. Government for its part seeks to persuade the heirs to ensure the administrative efficiency of these institutions and encourages them to take an active interest in maintaining and utilising them for the purpose they were originally created, in cooperation of the Saudi authorities.

Indo-U.K. relations

*119. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :
SHRI V. VISHWANATHA
MENON :
SHRI J. S. ANAND :
SHRI S. G. SARDESAI :
SHRI B. D. BARMAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any exchanges of letters between the Government of India and the British Government over India's explosion of nuclear device on May 18, 1974 ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There exists a differences of opinion between the two Governments over India's peaceful nuclear explosion experiment in September, 1974 has proposed a explaining their views. Discussions have also been held between their diplomatic representatives. These are in the nature of confidential exchanges between the two Governments and it is not possible to divulge the details.

Wages fixation for forest labour

*120. SHRI DEORAO PATIL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minimum Wages Central Advisory Board which met in September, 1974 has proposed a minimum wage for forest labour ; and

(b) if so, what are the recommendations made by the Board and what decision Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : (a) and (b) The Board approved a proposal sponsored by the Ministry of Labour regarding extension of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 to forest Labour, as recommended by the National Commission on Labour. This has been brought to the notice of the State Governments, for necessary further action.

Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad Coastal Highway

154. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated cost and expenditure incurred so far, year-wise on the short route of Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad coastal highway and Central aid granted so far for that purpose;

(b) the progress made in road work and bridge work and by when the highway will be ready for traffic;

(c) whether the work on the bridge is proceeding according to time schedule ;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of bridges to be completed and by when these bridges are likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI) : (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Pearl Cycle Industries Ltd.

155. SHRI J. S. ANAND : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Pearl Cycle Industries Ltd., New Delhi had not deposited provident fund collection of its employees at the time of the closure of the factory ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : The Provident Fund Authorities have intimated as under :—

(a) Yes.

(b) Action under section 8 of the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 has been taken for the recovery of arrears.

Prosecution under section 14 of the Act has also been launched against the management. A complain under section 406/409 Indian Penal Code has been filed with the Police authorities.

Payment of dues to the employees of the Pearl Cycle Industries Ltd.

156. SHRI J. S. ANAND : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees on the roll in the Pearl Cycle Industries Ltd. Ballabhgarh at the time of its closure;