

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main demand of the workers was for increase in Dearness Allowance rate by Rs. 100/- per month for all categories of port and dock workers at all the Major Ports by way of interim relief from 1-1-1974. At the final round of negotiations held on 15-1-1975 before the commencement of the strike, the Minister of Shipping and Transport offered to recommend the grant of the following interim reliefs:—

From 1.1.1974 to 5.7.1974  
a lump sum of Rs. 120.

From 6.7.1974 to 31.12.1974  
a lump sum of Rs. 180.

From 1.1.1975  
Rs. 50 per month.

The representatives of labour, however, insisted on a payment of Rs. 59 per month for 1974 and Rs. 60 per month from 1-1-1975. It was not acceptable to Government and the talks broken down.

(c) The effects of stoppage of port work are felt by (a) shipowners, (b) importers/exporters (c) Port and Dock authorities, (d) workers and (e) other sectors. It is not possible to quantify the loss suffered by various interests due to the port strike.

(d) It is not possible to maintain normal port services during a strike. However, steps were taken to protect the port installation and to maintain certain essential harbour services such as manning of bridges, tugs, hydraulic gates, cranes, etc., with the help of port officers, the Central Industrial Security Force, local civil authorities and Naval/Army personnel. Certain essential ship movements, especially of POL tankers, were carried out with the help of Naval personnel. The Territorial Army units at the Port of Bombay

and Calcutta were embodied and these were used for maintaining certain essential services and for unloading of foodgrains from some vessels.

#### Enforcement and Inspection Unit in the Ministry of Steel and Mines

264. SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Enforcement and Inspection Unit has been set up in the Ministry of Steel and Mines to eliminate malpractices in steel;

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

(c) what are the results achieved therefrom?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to (c) Presumably the reference is to the Offices of the Regional Iron and Steel Controllers set up at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Hyderabad Delhi and Kanpur to check on the misutilisation of steel supplied from regulated sources.

A Statement indicating inspections and enforcement work undertaken by the various Regional Iron and Steel Controllers is attached.

The effective action taken by the Regional Iron and Steel Controllers, considerably increased availability of steel during the last one year and the revised distribution procedures, have also contributed to the substantial reduction in the open market prices of steel materials in the last few months.

**Statement****Inspections/enforcement work undertaken by the Regional Offices of the Iron & Steel Controllers**

Inspections by the Regional Iron & Steel Controllers during the period November, 1973 to November, 1974 of stockyards of the main producers, Billet Re-rollers and other units.	Cumulative total of inspections from the inception of the Regional Offices (i.e. middle of 1971) till the end of November, 1974.	Enforcement action taken by the Regional Iron & Steel Controllers from November, 1973 to November, 1974.	Cumulative total of enforcement action upto November 1974. (i.e. from mid-1971 onwards).
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2916	6319	1. No. of cases referred to CBI/State Police	61	192
		2. No. of cases where prosecutions launched	24	40
		3. No. of cases where supplies were suspended.	678	1,430
		4. No. of cases in which debarring Orders have been passed under Clause 28-B of the Iron & Steel (Control) Order, 1956.		113
		5. No. of cases reported to Sponsoring Authorities for irregularities.	128	339

**Restoration of diplomatic relations with Portugal**

265. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 640 given in Rajya Sabha on the 13th December, 1974 and state:

(a) whether the question of restoration of diplomatic ties with Portugal was discussed with the Portuguese Foreign Minister during his recent visit to India; and

(b) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Diplomatic relations between India and Portugal were resumed

with effect from 31-12-1974. Diplomatic missions are expected to be established shortly in each other's capital.

**Increase in steel production**

266. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:  
SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of steel has increased recently in Bhilai, and Durgapur Steel Plants; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b) The total and average