

mines during the year 1974 as compared with 172 fatal accidents and 237 persons killed during the year 1973. Of these, 44 fatal accidents occurred and 51 persons were killed in coalmines in West Bengal during the year 1974 as compared with 36 fatal accidents and 39 persons killed during the year 1973.

(b) to (e) The required information in respect of year 1974 is being compiled and it will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of Porbandar Port in Gujarat

*100. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G.
KULKARNI:

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

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for the development of Porbandar Port in Gujarat;

(b) whether there is any plan to make it a major port; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the financial outlay during the Fifth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) Financial assistance has been extended to the Government of Gujarat for development of Porbandar under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of Minor Ports.

(b) and (c). No, Sir, however, the balance of the estimated cost of the project, not released to the State Government till the end of the Fourth Plan period, has been included in the provision for Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the draft Fifth Plan for the completion of the project.

Arms limitation in the Indian Ocean

*101. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL

AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United Kingdom has formally expressed desire to discuss with India and other coastal countries about arms limitation in the Indian Ocean; and

(b) if so, whether such proposal has been accepted by the Government of India?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dialogue with China

*102. SHRI S. A. HASHMI:
SHRI N. S. TALIB:
SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:
SHRIMATI MARGARET
ALVA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move afoot to start a dialogue with China for normalisation of Indo-China relations; and

(b) what are the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) The Government of India have repeatedly, and for several years, expressed their sincere desire for normalisation of relations between India and China. A positive response from the Government of China is still awaited.

Committee on Government purchases

*103. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA:
SHRI AWADHESHWAR
PRASAD SINHA:

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed any committee to examine the question of Government purchases;