

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir; the recommendations of the Second and Third Conferences on Safety in Mines are under consideration.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Higher Compensation to Workers Laid Off Due to Power Shortage

1757. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1178 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th December, 1973 and state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints regarding delay in fixing and deciding the question of payment of a higher quantum of compensation to workmen laid-off due to power shortage;

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

(c) what were the conclusions reached at the 24th Session of the Labour Ministers' Conference in that connection;

(d) what are the reasons for delay in taking a decision in the matter; and

(e) by when the decision is likely to be taken and implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b) Members of Parliament, State Governments and trade unions have urged the Government to amend the Industrial Disputes Act relating to lay-off provisions providing for a higher quantum of compensation.

(c) (i) Lay-off provisions should apply to all industrial establishments, employing 20 or more workers (as against the present limit of 50).

(ii) The number of days worked to entitle a worker to claim compensation should be reduced from 240 [Section 25B 2(a) (ii)] to 200 days and other consequential changes.

(iii) The 200 days worked need not be continuous; but may be intermittent.

(iv) The rate of lay-off compensation should be raised from the present 50% of wages + D. A. to 60%.

(d) and (e) Provisions for giving effect to the decisions of the Labour Ministers' Conference are being considered for incorporation in the Comprehensive Industrial Relations Bill.

1758. [Transferred to 18th March, 1975]

#### Scheme for Educated Unemployed

1759. SHRI DEORAO PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nagpur Vidarbha Industrial Corporation in Maharashtra has prepared a scheme for helping the educated unemployed; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the decision Central Government have taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) No such scheme has been received by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Rejoinder from International League of Rights to Chief Minister, Sikkim

1760. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International League of Rights, New York has issued on the 6th March, 1975 a rejoinder to the Chief Minister, Sikkim on alleged acts of aggression by India on Sikkim;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the League has defended the Chogyal's role in Sikkim and economic reforms undertaken by him during the last 15 years; and

(c) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry to find the connection between the Chogyal and the League?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have seen Press reports to the effect that a rejoinder has been issued by a body called the International League of Rights, to a statement made by the Chief Minister of Sikkim on an unsigned appeal that the League had forwarded to the U. N.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Chief Minister of Sikkim, Kazi Lhendup Dorji, commenting on the League's statement, had stated on January 18, 1975 that "the similarity between this statement (which had been issued on 13th January, 1975) and those issued on behalf of the Palace and its supporters on other occasions in the recent past, is so striking as to leave no doubt in the mind of anybody familiar with the history of Sikkim that this document also has been drafted by the same persons".

#### Indo-British Talks

1761. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that development in the Indian sub-continent and the neighbouring regions were generally reviewed by India and British during the two day bilateral consultations which concluded at New Delhi on the 7th March;

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

(c) whether the question of setting up an Indo-British joint commission was also discussed at that meeting; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Being of a confidential nature, the details of such consultation are not disclosed. However, an agreed Press Release was issued at the conclusion of the talks, copies of which are placed in the library of the Parliament.

#### Supply of Arms/Aircraft by Iran to Pakistan

1762. SHRI RABI RAY:

SHRI B. D. BARMAN:

SHRI J. S. ANAND:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reports that Iran has agreed to supply over 50 F-5 jets and other arms to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) and (b) The Government have seen press reports that at least 50 F-5H aircraft belonging to Iran and around 100 M-48 tanks formerly owned by Turkey and now being over-hauled in Iran, might be acquired by Pakistan.

(c) while no information is available to confirm this report, Government have on many occasions stated that the acquisition of a large quantity of sophisticated weapons by Pakistan is liable to have an adverse impact on the peace and stability of the sub-continent.

#### चोग्याल समर्थक तत्वों द्वारा भारत के विरुद्ध प्रचार

1763. श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सिक्किम में चोग्याल समर्थक तत्व भारत के विरुद्ध प्रचार कर रहे हैं;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि सिक्किम के अतिरिक्त नेपाल में भी ये तत्व नेपाली राजा के राज्याभिषेक के अवसर पर सक्रिय थे;

(ग) क्या इस सम्बन्ध में सिक्किम सरकार के साथ कोई पत्र व्यवहार किया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?