

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

(b) The Portuguese Foreign Minister outlined the steps already taken in regard to Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Angola etc. and told us that it was Portugal's desire that the process of decolonisation of all Portuguese territories in Africa should be completed before the end of 1975. We welcomed the projected steps towards full independence of these territories.

Acquisition of Land for Zinc Smelter Factory, Vishakhapatnam

*249. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had acquired land from some peasants for setting up a Zinc Smelter Factory at Vishakhapatnam;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government had assured the peasants for the employment of their wards in the proposed factory;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the non-implementation of the assurance; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the peasants have gone on relay hunger strike on the reported non-implementation of the assurance; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to redress the grievances of the peasants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAHIT YADAV): (a) to (e) Land was acquired by Andhra Pradesh Government for setting up the Zinc Smelter Factory at Visakhapatnam. In November, 1974, there was a relay hunger strike by the peasants whose land had been acquired by the State Government. No specific assurance to give jobs

to the wards of the peasants has been given by the Central Government. However, in keeping with the general policy, the Hindustan Zinc Ltd. is giving preference in the matter of employment to the persons displaced by the project. At present about 10 displaced persons have been employed as workers in the smelter, which is under construction.

Grievances of the Staff of the Department of Transport (Lighthouses)

*250. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: SHRI
M. P. VARMA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the staff working in the Department of Transport (Lighthouses) of the Ministry are not allowed to get their grievances ventilated which relate to the anomalies in their pay-scales due to departmental action;

(b) whether it is a fact that the staff requested the authorities to get their grievances ventilated through the Minister but they were not allowed to do so; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons there for?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT): (a) to (c) No Sir. The staff has never been prevented from ventilating their grievance. All representations received from the staff and addressed to the Minister have been duly considered in consultation with the concerned authorities. However, the request of an individual employee to meet the Minister was not granted as the matter on which he wished to speak to the Minister had already been fully examined. It is learnt that the concerned employee has since taken the matter to court.

Kudremukh Iron Ore Project

251. SHRI T. N. SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state: