

(b) if so, what steps his Ministry has taken for the sanction and implementation of the above projects?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI T A PAI) (a) and (b) While this Ministry has not received any proposal from the West Bengal Government for setting up a public sector unit in the State for the manufacture of large size transformers, a proposal received from the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation for setting up a scooter factory has been already considered and a Letter of Intent granted for setting up a capacity of 30,000 scooters per annum

As for a large antibiotic factory, it is learnt from the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals which is the concerned Ministry that they have not received any concrete proposal for setting up such a unit in the Public Sector in the State

Western Naval Presence in Indian Ocean

*426 SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the political Committee of the NATO at its meeting held in Bonn in last November had made a proposal for permanent Western naval presence in the Indian Ocean with a view to counter balance the alleged Soviet influence in the area, and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) (a) Government have seen reports of recommendations made to this effect by the North Atlantic Assembly in its meeting held at Bonn in November, 1972

(b) The North Atlantic Assembly is an organisation of Parliamentarians from NATO countries but is not an organ of the NATO Its recommendations are not binding on the NATO Government's view that the Indian Ocean should be an area of peace, free from great Power presence rivalries and tensions, is well known

Educational facilities to children of Armed Forces personnel

*427 SHRI P K KUNJACHEN Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the educational facilities allowed to the children of Armed Forces Personnel?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J B PATNAIK) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

Education is a State subject and each State is free to frame its own rules on matters regarding education However, the following educational concessions are available from the Central Government to the children of Armed Forces personnel

1 OFFICERS

The Army Officers Contributory Education Fund, The Naval Officers Contributory Education Scheme and the Air Force Officers Contributory Education Fund render assistance by awarding scholarships to children of Service Officers only

Subscription is collected from a Service Officer which is Rs 18 per quarter in the Army, Rs 15 per quarter in the Navy and Rs 10 per quarter in the Air Force

The benefits derived by the Members of Funds are as under

Rates of Scholarship (For officers children only)

Army

1st Boarder Child	Rs 50 p.m
2nd Boarder Child	Rs 40 p.m
Day Scholar	Rs 10 p.m

Only two children at a time will be eligible for the benefit

Navy

Boarder Child	Rs 50 p.m
Day scholar	Rs. 10 p.m.

Air Force

Boarder Child	Rs 50 p.m
Day Scholar	Rs 10 p.m

Children education allowance per child	Rate
Primary classes	Rs. 10 p.m.
Secondary and Higher Secondary Classes	Rs 15 p.m.

II JCOs and ORs (in the Army) and personnel of equivalent ranks in the Navy and Air Force

NOTE—The total allowance admissible to a person at any time is subject to a maximum of Rs 50 p.m

Re-imbusement of tuition fee

Actual fee charged by Government aided schools (This concession will not be admissible where the children education allowance is drawn)

It is admissible to personnel whose pay does not exceed Rs 720 p.m and whose children reside with them and study in Middle, High and Higher Secondary Schools approved by Government and aided schools

Hostel Subsidy

It is admissible to the children of personnel whose pay does not exceed Rs 349 p.m at the following rates subject to the fulfilment of the prescribed conditions.—

Pay Range p.m.

Upto Rs 125	Rs 47 50
Rs. 126 to Rs 225	Rs 42 50
Rs. 226 to Rs 349	Rs. 35 00

Short supply of coal to cement industry in Andhra Pradesh

*428 SHRI K L N PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the cement industry in Andhra Pradesh is threatened with closure due to the shortage of coal,

(b) whether it is also a fact that one unit producing about 250 tonnes of cement a day had been closed down on the 13th May, 1973, and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T A. PAI). (a) and (b) There have been complaints from cement factories, including those in Andhra Pradesh, that they are facing shortage of coal supplies and have to operate with very low levels of coal stocks. The Government has, however, received no report that any factory actually closed down on account of shortage of coal.

(c) With a view to supplying the coal required by each of the cement factory in full, the Standing Linkage Committee has linked the factories with the coal-fields in a rational manner. This is expected to improve the position progressively.

Asian Security and Peace Conference held in Dacca

*429 SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether India participated in the conference on Asian Security and Peace held in Dacca recently

(b) if so, the names of the countries which participated in the conference, and

(c) the decisions taken at the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH). (a) A delegation representing the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation is understood to have participated in the Conference.