

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: On the question of appointment of the Wage Board itself, no decision has yet been taken. The matter, as I said, is under various processes of consideration. With respect to the question raised about representation of the National Union of Journalists, I can only say at this stage that the decision would be taken on the respective merits of the case.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: No, the question was specific.

SHRI PITAMBER DAS: The question was categorical. Did he say it when he attended the meeting in Orissa? If he did say that, how does he explain it?

SHRI N. G. GORAY: That means the decision is already taken.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: Some journalists met me in Orissa, but I am not able to recollect what exactly I said . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: No, no. The point is, did you enquire as to whether there was not anybody who represented the Federation of Working Journalists? When the representatives of the other Union met you, you almost refused to meet them and when they wanted to convene a meeting and asked Mr. Gujral to preside over it, you said, "I will see that I dissuade Mr. Gujral from coming and presiding over it." *(Interruptions)* May I know whether they have represented to the Prime Minister regarding this?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him answer.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Sir, we seek your protection. He cannot say, "I forget everything."

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: If he forgets everything, he cannot be a Minister. He should resign.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: I have already said that some journalists met me and they naturally asked about the Wage Board. About this representation and all that I am not able to recollect what had happened . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: If he has developed senility, we have to dispense with him. We cannot afford to have a Minister who has developed senility.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: This is cowardice.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: This is complete cowardice.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY: When a number of journalists met me, I really cannot recollect what I have said. As far as representation of the National Union of Journalists is concerned, when the decision is taken to appoint the Wage Board, their claims will be considered on merits.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Free ration facility to Commissioned Officers

*504. **SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Commissioned officers in the Army have to spend more than their salary while they remain in the Army mess; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and whether it is proposed to provide free rations to the commissioned officers posted in peace areas like other J.C.Os?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Aid given to foreign countries from 1970 to 1973

*507. **SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) the number of countries which were given financial aid by India from 1970 to 1973; and

(b) the total quantum of aid given (country wise) during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI SURFENDRA PAI SINGH) (a) Sir

STATEMENT

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House

Names of the countries of the world to whom financial aid (Loans, Grants & Credits) was given by India from 1970 to 1973 and the quantum of aid given

Name of the country	Quantum of aid
	(Rs in crores)
1 Sri Lanka—	
(i) IV Credit (1971)	5 00
(ii) V Credit (1971)	0 40
Total Sri Lanka	5 40
2 Mauritius—	
Credit (1972)	3 21
Grant (1972)	1 01
3 Tanzania—	
Credit (1972)	5 00
4 Bangladesh—	
(i) Grants (1971-73)	132 74
(ii) Loans (1971-73)	34 93
5 Nepal—	
Grant (1970-71)	9 36
Grant (1971-72)	9 12
Grant (1972-73)	7 50
Total Nepal (Grants)	25 98
Standby Credit (1973)	10 00
6 Bhutan—	
Grant (1970-71)	6 6
Grant (1971-72)	8 0
Grant (1972-73)	9 9
Total Grants (Bhutan)	24 5
Loan (1970-71)	0 25
Loan (1971-72)	0 68
Loan (1972-73)	0 15
Total Loans (Bhutan)	1 08

Production of steel

*509 SHRI M K MOHTA Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(i) the expected steel production during 1973-74 as compared to the production in 1972-73

(b) the extent to which capacity utilisation of the steel plants is likely to improve during 1973-74 as compared to the year 1972-73

(c) the quantity of steel proposed to be imported together with names of the countries and the amount in foreign exchange involved and

(d) the extent to which demand for steel is likely to be met as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T A PAI) (a) Production of finished mild steel in 1973-74 has been estimated at 6.17 million tonnes as compared to 5.5 million tonnes in the previous year

(b) The capacity utilization in the five main steel plants in 1973-74 is expected to be 74 per cent as compared to 71 per cent in the previous year

(c) Imports in 1973-74 would be about 1 million tonnes valued at about Rs 200 crores. The countries from which imports would be made would depend on the availability of steel, competitive prices, allocation of foreign exchange etc.

(d) The gap between the estimated demand and availability from domestic production is proposed to be met by imports.

Functioning of NMDC

*511 SHRI KALYAN ROY Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious criticism made of late against the functioning of National Mineral Development Corporation and

(b) if so the steps taken to improve its functioning