

DAMAGE TO ORE HANDLING PLANT AT PARADEEP PORT

824. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the iron ore mines in Orissa are facing a crisis because of huge stock piled up in the mines due to the damage to the ore-handling plant at Paradeep port and a reduction in MMTC's indents; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ease the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) The ore handling plant at Paradeep port has been repaired and commissioned with effect from 13-2-1973 and shipments are now taking place smoothly.

(b) Does not arise.

पाकिस्तान को शस्त्रों की सप्लाई

825. श्री भूपेन्द्र नारायण मंडल : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रूस, ईरान के माध्यम से पाकिस्तान को सैनिक साज सामान की सप्लाई कर रहा है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

† [ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN]

825. SHRI B. N. MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia is supplying military hardware to Pakistan through Iran; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?]

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

† [THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.]

WORKERS UNEMPLOYED

826. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to closure of some 200 small scale electric bulb making industries in West Bengal, 32,000 workers have been rendered unemployed; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to save these small scale lamp making industries in West Bengal ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) and (b) The matter falls essentially in the State sphere.

SHORTAGE OF MOTOR CHASIS IN THE COUNTRY

827. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage of chasis of heavy trucks and other public carriage vehicles in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI T.A. PAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The shortage relates mainly to vehicles of two popular makes for which customers have to wait for about 1½ to 2½ years.

(b) Government have approved the schemes of the manufacturers of these two makes for expanding their production capacity. A third unit has also been permitted to expand. Government have also approved four new schemes envisaging a total capacity of 54,000 vehicles per annum.