

any representation regarding the closures and bad working of coal mines in Asansol-Raniganj coal belt leading to unemployment and production and if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to open the closed mines and to fully utilise their capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Government is aware of 16 mines having closed down in the previous three years in the Asansol-Raniganj coal belt. Of these 3 mines were closed down due to exhaustion of reserves, five due to labour unrest, three due to uneconomic working and remaining five due to natural and other causes, such as difficult working conditions, persistent roof trouble etc. There is no record of any case of closure due to bad working of coal mines.

(b) The closure of the coal mines in the Asansol-Raniganj belt is being watched by the Government through the Coal Board and the Coal Controller who are in constant touch with the representatives of managements and employees to ensure smooth functioning of the mines. As a result of the efforts made, the closure of several mines has been averted and some closed mines have been reopened.

#### EFFORT TO IMPROVE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

762. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1069 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 1972 and state :

(a) whether any progress has since been achieved in consultation with the workers' representatives to evolve any agreed measures for securing improvements in the industrial relations system ; and

(b) if so, details thereof ; and if not, what are the main difficulties ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHA-DILKAR) : (a) and (b). The central trade union organisations consulted on the subject have not been able to suggest an agreed formula. Government, therefore, propose to bring forward comprehensive legislation on industrial relations in the light of the discussions held and opinions expressed so far on the subject.

#### REQUIREMENT OF FINISHED STEEL FOR WEST BENGAL

763. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news appearing in the Economic Times dated the 4th of September 1972 to the effect that steel supply to Bengal Industries was inadequate ;

(b) the total amount of finished steel required for West Bengal and actual amount of steel despatched in 1970-71 and 1972, and the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps are being taken to rush supply of finished steel there in order to prevent the closure of engineering factories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is presumed that the reference is to the demand for steel by all industrial units in the State and not for the State Projects alone. The figures of demands of the units state-wise are not available. However, steel despatches to West Bengal during 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72 were 5,06,341 tonnes, 4,21,595 tonnes and 5,94,825 tonnes respectively.

There has, therefore, been a substantial increase in despatches in 1971-72, compared to 1970-71. It may further be mentioned that in considering the priority requisitions of units requiring steel, the special circumstances of West Bengal are given due consideration by the Steel Priority Committee.

#### WAGE BOARD FOR JOURNALISTS

764. SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA :  
SHRI V. B. RAJU :  
SHRI KRISHAN KANT :  
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :  
SHRI GURMUKH SINGH  
MUSAFIR :  
SHRI J. S. TILAK :  
SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN  
GUPTA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a new Wage Board for Journalists and non-journalists ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) The question of setting up Wage Boards for Journalists and non-Journalists will have to be viewed in the light of the observations of the National Commission on Labour and of the workers and employers on the general question of wage boards.

(b) Does not arise.

SHIFTING OF MAP PRINTING SECTION OF G.S. I.

765. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has taken any decision to shift the Map Printing Section of the Geological Survey of India, Calcutta to Hyderabad ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) Geological Survey of India as yet do not have any press for printing multicoloured geological maps. So far they have been printing their maps through other organisations. The Government have decided that the Geological Survey of India should have their own map printing press. It has been decided to locate this press at Hyderabad after examining all the relevant factors, the most important of which being the facility to have coordination with the Survey of India Press who have a similar unit located there.

INDIANS IN AFRICA

766. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :  
SHRI BHOLA PRASAD :  
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the African countries where the population of Indian origin is on the point of being expelled as a result of certain measures taken by these countries ;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to stop such measures ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Government are not aware of any country where the population of Indian origin is on the point of expulsion.

(b) and (c) Government have made their stand clear that while it is the sovereign right of a State to regulate its internal affairs in the best interests of its citizens, a policy of expelling foreign nationals who have been long settled in the country should be executed with compassion and with due regard to equitable norms of compensation. While Government takes responsibility for Indian nationals abroad, they have always advocated that other persons of Indian origin settled in foreign countries should identify themselves with the people and the interests of that country.

FORMULA FOR DECLARING BONUS TO WORKERS

767. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have evolved a new formula for the declaration of bonus to workers in the light of the recommendations made by the Bonus Review Committee ;

(b) if so, the details of the new formula ; and

(c) what would be the financial implications of the same on the public sector undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b) Bonus is now payable in terms of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 as amended by the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Ordinance, 1972, promulgated on the 23rd September, 1972.

(c) In respect of central public sector undertakings, the estimate of additional bonus liability for the year 1971-72 works out to about Rs. 6.5 to 7 crores.

DISCOVERY OF IRON ORE DEPOSITS IN HARYANA

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

(a) whether it is a fact that large deposits of iron ore have been discovered in Haryana ;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of the ore deposits ; and