

IV employees to the post of Lower Division Clerk. Earlier the All India Employees' Provident Fund Staff Federation, another unrecognized body, had made a demand for promotion of unqualified Class IV staff as Lower Division Clerk on completion of seven years' service. It has not been possible to dispense with the competitive test in the interest of efficiency.

#### MINI STEEL PLANTS IN PRIVATE SECTOR

607. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 20 more mini-steel plants in the private sector are likely to be approved by Government ;

(b) if so, the number of the parties who were in the field, the number and names of the parties who have since been given letters of intent ; and

(c) whether any decision has been taken with regard to (a) above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (c) The policy regarding the future development of electric furnace-cum-continuous casting/conventional casting units for manufacture of ingots/billets is presently under active consideration of Government in the light of the present as well as projected scrap availability.

#### NORTH EASTERN SALANPUR COLLIERY

608. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received representations regarding continuous non-payment of wages, Bonus and other legal dues, delay payment and low payment than what was recommended by the Wage Board in North East Salanpur Colliery, Coalmines belonging to Bhattars in Kalipahari area, Western Kajora and other coalmines in Asansol-Raniganj coal belt ;

(b) if so, details of the complaints and allegations ;

(c) whether a thorough enquiry has been conducted into all these aspects by Government ; if so, when and by whom and what are the details of the findings ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) The matter was investigated by the Officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery and the details of the non-payments, etc. as revealed during the course of investigations and the action taken by Government in the matter of securing relief to the workmen are indicated in the statement laid out in the Table of the House. [See Appendix LXXIX, Annexure No. 4]

#### COAL MINES IN WEST BENGAL

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

(a) whether Government propose to take over the closed coal mines like Dhemo Main, Benali, Saltore, Nimcha in West Bengal which have huge deposit of coal underground ; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) The Government is considering a proposal for the National Coal Development Corporation to purchase Dhemo Main Colliery when it will be put up on auction by the West Bengal Government.

As regards Benali, Saltore and Nimcha collieries, Coal Board has launched prosecution against them for unauthorised closure of mines. The Government has no proposal to take over these closed collieries.

#### INDO-PAK TALKS

610. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any talks have since been initiated between India and Pakistan regarding the exchange of territories occupied during the recent Indo-Pak War and for the return of the seized goods ; and

(b) if so, the progress achieved so far in the matter ?