

and administrative obligations as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. A decision has already been taken to this effect.

(b) An expenditure of Rs. 6 lakhs is likely to be incurred by the Corporation on shifting. However, since Hyderabad is centrally located with reference to the Projects of the National Mineral Development Corporation, which are in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, and Mysore, the expenditure will be made good by savings accruing in Travelling Allowance, Daily Allowance and other allowances payable to the staff at Hyderabad. This is also expected to result in greater operational efficiency.

According to the terms of their appointment, the employees of the Corporation are liable to be transferred to a post at the head office or in any of its projects, at the discretion of the management.

#### TAKING OVER OF COAL MINES BY GOVERNMENT

958. SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for taking over the management of the 214 Coking Coal mines situated in Bihar and Bengal ;

(b) to what extent the management of these coal mines has improved after Government's take over in relation to the workload and the number of strikes as compared to the position before the take over by Government ; and

(c) in what manner the conservation of coal would be improved and its wastage minimised after the take over ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) To protect, conserve and develop the scarce coking coal resources on scientific lines in the interest of the growing requirements of iron and steel industry in the country

(b) It is too early to indicate precisely the improvements in management etc.

(c) It is proposed to introduce a programme of reorganisation and reconstruction of the mines on scientific lines by adopting proper techniques of mining which can be employed only in large rationalised units. Besides resulting in economies of scale, this would conserve coal and avoid its wastage as follows :

(i) Coal locked up in barriers, under Railway sidings etc. will become available for extraction, and

(ii) seams with superior coal but which cannot be worked economically by conventional mining methods will be exploited by the employment of improved techniques of mining including the caving method which are beyond the technical and financial capacities of the present unit managements.

#### VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF THE PAK OCCUPIED KASHMIR TO EGYPT

959. SHRI GOPINATHAN NAIR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ विदेश मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the President of the Pakistan occupied Kashmir had been received as an official guest by the Government of Egypt in October, 1971 ; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ विदेश मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION

960. DR. K MATHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/श्रम और पुनर्वास मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether any memorandum has been received by Government or the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation from the Progressive Provident Fund Employees Federation of India regarding the enhancement of House Rent Allowance for the staff of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation ;

(b) whether any decision has been taken

in favour of enhancement of the House Rent Allowance ; and

(c) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/श्रम और पुनर्वास मंत्री (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The matter is under Government's consideration.

#### NIXON MEDIATION IN INDO-PAK DISPUTES

961. SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether President Yahya Khan had requested sometime back for mediation by President Nixon of the United States for settlement of Indo-Pakistan disputes ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मन्त्रालय में उप-मन्त्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Government have seen reports to this effect.

(b) Pakistan's reported request for mediation would be in accordance with its attempts to convert the Bangla Desh issue into an Indo-Pakistani dispute, which it is not. Government have made it clear that the only solution to the problem of Bangla Desh is through a political settlement between Pakistan's military rulers and the representatives of East Bengal elected in December 1970. Therefore, mediation, if it arises at all, is a matter between these two parties and not between India and Pakistan.

#### KASHMIR ENGRAVED AS PAK TERRITORY ON WORLD CUP FOR HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

962. SHRI K. C. PANDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मन्त्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World cup for the International Hockey Tournament showed Kashmir as part of Pakistan :

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government of India in this regard ; and

(c) the reaction of the International Hockey Federation thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मन्त्रालय में उप-मन्त्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The President of the International Hockey Federation who was contacted by the Embassy of India, Brussels, has given the assurance that he would check and rectify the mistake when the Cup returns to the International Hockey Federation Headquarters early in 1973. He has also requested the Pakistani representatives to correct the mistake earlier, if possible. This matter is also being pursued by the Indian Hockey Federation with the International Hockey Federation.

#### BANGLA DESH ISSUE IN U. N. O.

963. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मन्त्री be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 139 given in Rajya Sabha on the 19th November, 1971 and state the names of the countries which supported India on the Bangla Desh issue in U. N. O. and the names of the countries which opposed the move ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मन्त्रालय में उप-मन्त्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : As stated in reply to Starred Question No. 139 on November 19, 1971, there is general agreement that the only solution to the problem of Bangla Desh refugees would be the voluntary repatriation of the refugees on the basis of the restoration of the fundamental human rights and liberties of the people of Bangla Desh to them. The Third Committee has since unanimously recommended a resolution for adoption by the U. N. General Assembly in which the Assembly would recognise that "voluntary repatriation is the only satisfactory solution to the refugees problem and that this is fully accepted by all concerned", and express the belief that the "voluntary repatriation of the refugees can be brought about only if a climate of confidence is created."

There is no country which opposes a political solution to the issue of Bangla Desh taking due account of the welfare and aspirations of the people of East Bengal.