

the World Federation of the United Nations Associations.

(vii) Over 2000 foreign visitors were given an opportunity to visit refugee camps in India to make an objective assessment of the situation. These included diplomats, legislators, journalists, intellectuals and others.

(b) *The stand taken by the major powers on this issue:—*

The consensus of the major powers is that:—

(i) The root cause of the problem is the internal situation inside East Bengal.

(ii) The problem can be resolved only by a political settlement with the elected leaders of East Bengal.

(iii) The restoration of normalcy in East Bengal can only be on the basis of respect for humanitarian principles and fundamental human rights of the people of East Bengal. This is essential to ensure the safe and speedy return of the refugees in India to their homeland.

(iv) Both bilaterally and at the international level, individual and joint action should be taken by the countries of the world to realise the above objectives.

Different countries, however, hold varied views regarding the methods by which the above objectives can be achieved and the problem stemming from this unprecedented human tragedy solved, though all agree that a lasting solution can be achieved only on the basis of the consent of the people of East Bengal.

(c) No Sir. There is overwhelming sympathy for the burdens that India is facing due to the situation inside East Bengal, created by the West Pakistani military regime. There is appreciation for the restraint, humanity and statesmanship with which the Government of India has been dealing with the problem.

There is also full acknowledgement of the tragedy that the people of East Bengal have been going through.

(d) India's foreign policy is alive to the developments in Bangla Desh and to foreign reactions regarding the issue and it has been successful in meeting the requirements of the situation, as far as possible.

#### MALTREATMENT OF REFUGEES

688. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/श्रम और पुनर्वासि मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received serious allegations of maltreatment of the refugees from Bangla Desh in Meghalaya;

(b) the nature of the allegations; and

(c) what steps, if any, have been taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/श्रम और पुनर्वासि मंत्री (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) and (b) Complaints about some stray cases of indecent behaviour towards men and women inmates of some refugee camps were reported.

(c) The officers incharge of administration of the camps have been asked to enforce strict measures so that such incidents do not recur in future.

#### TAKE OVER OF COLLIERIES IN DHANBAD BY NEW MANAGEMENT

689. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that when the new management took over the big collieries in Dhanbad District of Bihar found nothing except the structure and machinery;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the previous owners of these mines removed entire stores, no cash, no records of any sort, no wage registers are available; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken against these owners for all these defalcations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a), (b) & (c): The Government had received some reports in this regard. The Custodians of the mines, the management of which has been taken over by the Government under the Coking Coal Mines (Emergency Provisions), Ordinance, 1971, are collecting information and as such the full particulars are not yet available. The question of taking any steps against owners does not therefore arise at present.

#### USSR PROPOSAL ON BANGLA DSH

690. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

बिदेश मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed with the proposal of the Government of USSR that to solve the Bangla Dsh problem the "Political solution lies within the framework of Pakistan"; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of India have also agreed for another "Tashkent" type meeting for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS बिदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) & (b) No proposal has been made by the U.S.S.R. Government regarding the solution of the Bangla Dsh problem within the framework of Pakistan. Nor has there been any suggestion for a "Tashkent" type meeting for I this purpose.

#### SOVILT SHIPS IN INDIAN OCEAN

691. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of EXTEबिदेश AFFAIRS #5tt be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the basis i of .the recently signed "peace friendship and co-operation" treaty with U.S.S.R. Government have permitted Soviet armed ship to patrol in the Indian Ocean; 1? R.S.S./71—4.

(b) if so, the number of armed ships in the Indian Ocean belonging to foreign countries; and

(c) since when they are in the Indian Ocean?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS; बिदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No Sir, No permission from the Government of India or any other Government is required for foreign ships, armed or otherwise, to patrol the international waters of the Indian Ocean.

(b) & (c): The precise strength of the war ships of different nations present in the Indian Ocean, and the duration of their presence, is not known.

#### COURT OF INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL IN CALCUTTA

692. SHRI DWUENDRALAL SEN GUPTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION श्रम और पुनर्वास मंत्री be pleased lo state:

(a) since when the Court of the Industrial Tribunal. Central Government, and its office is functioning in Calcutta;

(b) whether it has been made permanent;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore: and

(d) how many offices of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal have been made permanent so far ?

#### THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION;

श्रम और पुनर्वास मंत्री (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) The Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court, Calcutta is functioning since 16-8-1966.

(h) No.

(c) Ordinarily it is not necessary formally to declare any organisation as permanent.

(d) None.