

local works, will have to be met by the State Government from their own funds. It was also stipulated that no work for which approval had not been given by the Govt. of India should be undertaken and provision made for any approved work should not be diverted to any other work. Out of the aforesaid 135 works, only 123 works were taken up for execution by the State Govt.

The pattern of Central financial assistance for the West Coast Road, which passes through the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka and Union Territory of Goa also, was grant-in-aid upto 50% of the cost of construction of the road from 1-4-1951 to 31-3-1955, 100% grant-in-aid from 1-4-1955 to 31-3-1969 and thereafter 100% loan assistance. The West Coast Road was included in the National Highway System on 7-3-1972 and since then the entire cost of development, improvement and maintenance of the road is being met by the Central Govt.

The proposal of the State Govt. is that not only the excess expenditure on the individual works (which is not admissible according to the terms and conditions for the grant of financial assistance for the West Coast Road) should be borne by the Central Govt. but also that the entire expenditure should be treated as grant-in-aid as against 100% loan assistance granted with effect from 1-4-1969. The matter is under consideration.

Reduction in the price of Iron Ore

816. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a move to reduce the prices of iron ore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the cut in ore offtake imposed by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has resulted in difficulties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Procurement prices of iron ore are negotiated from time to time between the Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation and the suppliers of iron ore. Negotiations in respect of prices for 1976-77 are in progress.

(c) and (d) The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has reduced its offtake of iron ore due to recessionary trends in the world market. This is a temporary phase. The steel market is already picking up and the Corporation hopes to procure increased quantities of iron ore from the suppliers in the near future.

Existence of Bonded Labour in various Forms

817. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that in different States bonded labour system is in operation in various forms and under various names;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any survey regarding existence of bonded labour in various forms in the country; and

(c) if so, what are the findings of the survey ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No comprehensive all India survey has been undertaken but State Governments have been advised to identify bonded labour system prevalent in their respective jurisdiction.

Intrusion of foreign shipping lines in the areas covered by the Indian lines

818. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign shipping lines have started intruding those