

presently under the control of NMDG will be transferred to Bokaro Steel Plant since the entire production from these mines is earmarked for Bokaro. All the other steel plants already have captive iron ore mines. The intention of this is to ensure that N.M.D.C. can concentrate exclusively on export-oriented ore projects, including processing plants such as iron ore pellets. N.M.D.C. would also expand in the field of Mines consultancy.

Stabbing incident involving an Indian Embassy Official in Australia

♦tag. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI
CHUNDAWAT: SHRIMATI
HAMIDA HABIBULLAH:
SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA: SHRI
SAWAISINGH SISODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian military attache in Australia was recently stabbed there;

(b) whether it is a fact that a sense of insecurity is prevailing amongst the staff of the Indian Embassy in Canberra following the attempts to burn the embassy building and the subsequent stabbing of the military attache by a member of a terrorist gang;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) whether Government of India have taken up the matter with the Government of Australia and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a.) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) At our request, the Government of Australia have reinforced measures

for the security of personnel and property of the Indian missions and officers in Australia. The Govt. of Australia have also undertaken a detailed investigation into the identity of organization or persons responsible for this series of criminal acts.

Expansion of the Bokaro Steel Plant

♦130. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:
SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA
MENON: SHRIMATI
PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to expand the Bokaro Steel Plant;

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

(c) whether Government have sought assistance for the purpose from any foreign country; and

(d) if so, what is the name of that country and what are the details of the assistance sought by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant from 1.7 million tonnes to 4.0 million tonnes is under implementation. Government also intend to expand Bokaro Steel further to 4.75 million tonnes and a detailed project report prepared by MECON is under examination.

(b) All the major units of 4.0 MT expansion, except the cold rolling mill complex, are expected to be commissioned by 1979-80. The cold rolling mill complex is expected to be completed by the end of 1982.

(c) and (d) Except for the cold rolling mill complex of 4 MT stage,