

Organisations promoting Indo-Bangladesh Relations

*496. SHRI DWIJENDRA LAL SEN GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are several organisations functioning in the country for promoting Indo-Bangladesh relations;

(b) if so, the names and addresses of such organisations;

(c) whether Government have recognised any of those organisations; and

(d) if so, the criteria for recognising such organisations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Government is aware that there are several organisations functioning in India with the stated objective of promoting friendly relations between India and Bangladesh.

(b) Government is aware of the following organisations:

(i) All-India Indo-Bangladesh Youth Association, 29, Canning Lane, New Delhi.

(ii) Indo-Bangladesh Friendship Association, 8, Fire Brigade Lane, New Delhi.

(iii) Indo-Bangladesh Friendship Society, Opposite Police Commissioner's Office, Hyderabad-2 (A.P.)

(iv) Bharat-Bangla Desh Mitra Mandal, Industrial Estate, Lalbaug, Bombay-12.

(v) Indo-Bangladesh Friendship Society, Al-Dossal, 28 Pali Road, Bombay-50 (AS).

(vi) Paschim Bangla-Bangladesh Sampariti Samiti, 63/2A Suren Sarkar Road, Calcutta-10.

(c) Individuals in their private capacity are at liberty to form organisations of the

sort mentioned and it has not been Government's practice to intervene by formally granting them recognition or otherwise.

(d) Does not arise.

†Import of Cold Rolled Grain Oriented Steel

*268. SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the present requirement of cold rolled grain oriented steel in the country; and

(b) the quantity of this kind of steel which is imported and the names of the countries from which it is imported ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) The current demand of cold rolled grain oriented silicon steel sheets is estimated to be about 25,000 tonnes.

(b) Import statistics do not furnish the break-up of grain oriented and non-oriented sheets. Of the total import of electrical steel sheets in 1971-72 amounting to 23,735 tonnes the largest share is taken by the United Kingdom followed by U.S.A. and Japan. Small quantities were also imported from Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, GDR, Federal Republic of Germany, Poland and Sweden.

Martyrs' Day Celebration at Rajghat

845. SHRI THILIAI VILLALAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Guard of Honour is given by the contingents of the three Defence Services, every year, at Rajghat on the 30th January to observe the "Martyrs' Day";

(b) whether Government are contemplating to change the mode of salutation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

†Transferred from the 5th March, 1974.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Guard of Honour is intended to convey respect to the Martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation's cause. The mode of salutation follows the well established practice in this regard. The ceremony commences with the singing of favourite bhajans of Mahatma Gandhi. Thereafter the President places a wreath on Mahatma Gandhi's Samadhi, and it is followed by Guard of Honour, which has remained included in the official programme of this ceremony since 1955.

Loss to Coal Mines Authority of India

846. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal Mines Authority of India is likely to suffer heavy losses during the first financial year of its formation;

(b) if so, what will be the likely estimated loss and the reasons therefor and the steps contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b) According to the present indications, the Coal Mines Authority Limited is likely to suffer a loss of over Rs. 10 crores during the financial year 1973-74. The main reasons for the loss are:—

1. Implementation in full of Wage Board recommendations for workers and regularisation of workers including re-categorization, leading to higher cost of production.

2. Increase in wage costs on account of higher dearness allowance and grant of interim wage relief.

3. Increase in cost of materials and stores.

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4. Short-fall and disruption in production due to power interruptions and irregular as well as inadequate wagon supplies.

5. Widening gap between increasing cost of production and the existing selling prices.

Efforts are continuously being made to improve the working of the Company under the prevailing circumstances.

New Satgram Colliery Project

847. SHRI ROSHAN LAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question Nos. 1749 and 1882 given in Rajya Sabha on the 21st December 1972 and 22nd December, 1972 respectively and state:

(a) whether any feasibility report in respect of New Satgram colliery project was prepared in November, 1962; and

(b) whether it is available with the Coal Mines Authority and if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, as soon as it is received.

Undesirable activities of a French Diplomat in India

848. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI:

SHRI ROSHAN LAL:

SHRIMATI SITA DEVI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the "Times of India" of the 20th December, 1973 to the effect that a former Counsellor of the French Embassy in Delhi has confessed that he was engaged in smuggling