

linked. There is a linkage Committee which is looking after all this. This Committee decides which mine will supply which quality of coal to which plant. The quantity of coal is also determined by the Linkage Committee. We are trying to see that the right type of coal goes to the steel plants.

DR. V. B. SINGH: Sir, my question has not been answered. I wanted to know the schemes under consideration for increasing the supply of coal and for improving its quality through mechanisation of pits.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : सदस्यों की रक्षा भी करेंगे या नहीं ?

श्री सभापति : आप बार-बार बोलते जा रहे हैं ...

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : जवाब नहीं मिलता इसलिए अधिक बोलना पड़ता है । बड़े मिनिस्टर से बुलवाइए ।

श्री सभापति : आप बीच-बीच में बोलकर औरों का वक्त भी लेते हैं ।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : आप मौक नहीं देते ।

श्री सभापति : मैं आपको मौका दे चुका हूँ ।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : जब सवाल का जवाब ठीक नहीं आएगा तो बोलना ही पड़ेगा ।

श्री सभापति : आप बीच में ही बोलने चले जाएंगे, मैंने औरों को भी बुलाना है इसलिए आप बीच में इन्ट्रूट मत कीजिए ।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : श्रीमन्, अगर आप इजाजत दें तो मैं सवाल पढ़ कर बता सकता हूँ कि सवाल का ठीक जवाब नहीं आया है । अगर जवाब ठीक मिल जाए तो हमें बोलने की जरूरत नहीं

पड़ेगी । आप सदस्यों की सुरक्षा नहीं कर रहे हैं । देश में आज कोयले की कमी हो जाए, स्टील की कमी हो जाए और हमारे सवाल का उत्तर भी न मिले । अगर इस सदन में जवाब नहीं मिलेगा तो और कहां मिलेगा ?

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: Sir, the small industries and the general public have been facing extreme difficulty due to irregular, inadequate and instable supply of coal. In view of the statement of the hon'ble Minister that these difficulties have been caused by shortage of wagons and bottlenecks, will the hon'ble Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state whether a joint study is being undertaken by the Ministries concerned, if so, with what result?

SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA HANSDA: We try to see that the quality of coal is maintained and supplied to the industries concerned.

Indo-Pak Relations

*65. SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:†

SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN MANISHANKER JOSHI:

SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA:

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA:

SHRI SYED HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has proposed to Pakistan regarding holding of talks on resumption of communications, travel, airtlinks, trade and exchanges in the field of science and culture; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Lakshmi Kumari Chundawat.

(b) if so, what is Pakistan's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) India had sent a message to Pakistan on 31st December, 1973 suggesting commencement of talks to implement the normalisation measures envisaged in paragraph 3 of the Simla Agreement.

(b) Pakistan's response dated 19th January was a limited one as it was suggested that talks should be confined to only resumption of postal, telegraphic, sea and land communications. The resumption of airlinks including over flights which is also a part of this item under paragraph 3 of the Simla Agreement, was left out in Pakistan's reply. This omission was pointed out in India's rejoinder of 25th January, when it was also suggested that in order to alleviate the hardship caused to thousands of persons on both sides, the item on resumption of travel facilities should also be taken up at the same time.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चंडावत : आपका क्या खयाल है कि यह आवागमन कब तक शुरू हो जाएगा ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It will not be safe for me to make a guess because at the moment there is not even agreement to discuss this matter.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चंडावत : क्या यह सही है कि अभी कुछ पाकिस्तानी नागरिकों ने हिन्दुस्तान से वीजा प्राप्त करने की अप्लिकेशन दी है ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There have been some applications for grant of visa and in appropriate cases the Government of India does grant visas.

SHRI SYED HUSSAIN: Sir, the hon. Minister has said just now that the response of Pakistan seems very poor in our country. I want to know whether India has given copies of our proposal

regarding the normalisation of relations as well as travel and cultural reciprocal arrangements to the Arab countries which are friendly with India. Then regarding the current Islamic Conference, I think it is supposed to be to find out economic facilities for certain countries, friendly countries. They think India is friendly with the Arab countries. Now they have called this Islamic Conference and the Islamic countries have sent their representatives. India is the third biggest country in terms of Muslim population. Indonesia. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly put your question.

SHRI SYED HUSSAIN: I am coming to that. Don't you think that this is a hostile action in order to disturb the economic condition of the sub-continent to call this Islamic Conference and not invite India to join this Conference in Pakistan?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, the Simla Agreement and the provisions thereof are public property and I am sure that all the Arab countries, in fact all countries in the world, know the contents of the Simla Agreement. About the Islamic Summit or the Islamic Conference being held in Lahore, it is a fact that India with its large Muslim population has not been invited. There are several other countries also which have a very sizeable Muslim population and they have also not been invited. If the objective, as given out by the Islamic Secretariat, is to mobilise support for the Arab cause, we ourselves have always been in favour of the Arab case because we believe that justice is on their side. Then regarding other matters that they might consider—certain economic matters affecting the countries who have been invited—generally economic matters are not related to religion. But if any group of countries want to have any economic relations, they can do so provided it does not harm or injure the interests of other countries. So, at the moment when the Conference is taking place, it is very difficult for me to make any further comment because I do not know what they are going to discuss and in what way.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the omission that Pakistan has made in its correspondence with regard to matters covered by para 3 of the Simla Agreement and not referred to in this letter may not be to an extent deliberate, on account of the fact that Pakistan is taking a cold attitude towards these matters since the prisoners of war issue has not been settled to Pakistan's satisfaction? May I know from the hon. Minister at what stage the issues of prisoners of war and recognition of Bangladesh, which are most important, are being handled to-day?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There is no doubt that the omission is deliberate because if a Government sends a reply to a communication delivered to them and omits any particular aspect of the suggestion made obviously the omission is deliberate. The hon. Member asked me about the question of recognition of Bangladesh and final settlement of the question of prisoners of war. We have always held the view that continued non-recognition of Bangladesh by Pakistan is ignoring the realities and is a negative factor in the situation. And this non-recognition comes in the way of speedy normalisation of relations between the countries in this region. The bulk of the prisoners of war would be repatriated in another about two or three months' time. And the only question that would be left unsettled would be the future of 195 prisoners of war whom Bangla Desh taken a decision to try. But about these 195 also the matter is not left in the air. The Delhi Agreement does provide tripartite discussions to settle the future, by mutual agreement, of these 195 prisoners of war. And we continue to hope that this Agreement solemnly entered into between India and Pakistan with the concurrence of Bangla Desh would be acted upon by Pakistan.

SHRI V. B. RAJU: The main issues that necessitated the Simla meet, namely, the transfer of occupied territory and the exchange of prisoners of war, these two issues have been very successfully resolved and only secondary matters remain. And these need a bit of cajoling

or trying to understand things. Does not the honourable Minister feel that we have a handicap in not having the diplomatic mechanism in the capitals of both countries and which mechanism would have been working out important details and bringing about an understanding? Will the honourable Minister consider this point and enlighten the House on the need for establishing diplomatic relations?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The absence of diplomatic relations has not come in the way of continuing contact between the two Governments. As I have indicated there has been exchange of correspondence. And the question of establishment of diplomatic relations also is a matter which certainly will be discussed, but to give some content to the establishment of diplomatic relations there must be some existing relationship to justify the establishment of resident missions in each other's capital.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know from the Government how many prisoners of war or other civilians are still left awaiting repatriation in the course of the next few months? In this connection the Prime Minister seems to have made a statement saying that the so-called Islamic Conference is intended to divide the developing countries. May I know whether any assessment has been made with regard to that point and communicated to proper quarters whichever way possible as to what our apprehension is if at all, of this Islamic Conference?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The total number of persons belonging to the three categories mentioned in the Delhi Agreement who have been repatriated is over 2 lakh including about 65000 prisoners of war. The number of the remaining prisoners of war would be less than 30000. Then there are two other categories — Bengalis in Pakistan and Pakistanis in Bangla Desh. The number of Bengalis still left in Pakistan is very difficult to indicate because constant verification, etc. has given figures which do not exactly tally with the earlier projections and the number could be roughly of the order of between

40000 and 50000. And the number of Pakistani nationals who have expressed their desire to be repatriated back to Pakistan is pretty large. In fact, it runs into lakhs as a result of verification undertaken by the ICCR. The question of the remaining Pakistanis in Bangla Desh will also be discussed along with the question of the future of 195 prisoners in the tripartite meeting envisaged in the Delhi agreement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: And about Islamic Summit?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sorry. About Islamic Summit all the countries attending the Conference are developing countries and their problems, particularly in the economic field, are identical and action in the forums of UNCTAD or U.N. General Assembly would be comprehensive to bring within its purview the problems relating to all the developing countries. So, any attempt to tackle them in a small group, that also based on religious considerations, may create some misunderstanding or suspicion among other developing countries. It is in the interests of developing countries themselves that they should co-ordinate their efforts and act in unison together rather than in several groups. This is a matter which cannot be conveyed to any proper quarter as such and the avowed objective of Islamic Conference. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: For instance the United Nations could be informed as to what we are feeling about it.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is difficult for me to say what the United Nations would do, if certain groups get together. U.N. knows this thing and I do not know what purpose will be served by our sending them a communication about it.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: I would like to know from the Foreign Minister whether, in view of the fact that Pakistan Government is dragging its feet in implementing the Simla and Delhi agreements and in view of the fact that Pakistan wants to take advantage of

the Islamic Summit Conference in Lahore that is being held today and wants to raise the question of Kashmir there in order to mobilise the Islamic countries' support for Kashmir, the Government of India has advised all the Islamic States that are participating in the Lahore Conference that they should desist from discussing the question of Kashmir as it has been barred by the Simla Agreement. I would also like to know whether Pakistan has proposed a summit conference between the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and India to discuss the remaining questions in Simla-Delhi agreements.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I agree with hon. Member that all matters between India and Pakistan have been agreed to be discussed bilaterally and mutually, and raising them in any international forum will be certainly inconsistent with the letter and spirit of Simla Agreement. All indications are that this matter regarding Kashmir is not likely to be raised in the Islamic Summit. We have taken adequate steps to acquaint the participating countries with our views in this respect.

With regard to the Summit Conference between India and Pakistan at the present stage there is no justification for a Summit Conference at the present stage. But discussions at other levels as proposed by us would appear to be more appropriate.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH:—A high-level mission has gone to Dacca from Islamic Summit to sort out the questions of recognition and 195 prisoners of war. As the Government has full knowledge about it, would they take initiative in the matter, rather than keeping silence so that these issues can be sorted out and stable peace established in the sub-continent. I want to know whether there is any scope for Indian initiative in this regard.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, India had taken the initiative and India, Pakistan and Bangladesh had agreed on the manner in which these two points mentioned by the honourable Member

have to be resolved. The present mission on behalf of the Islamic Conference in Dacca is the outcome of the gathering in Lahore and there is nothing else that we need to do. Bangladesh is a sovereign independent country and if they are approached by another group of countries who want to bring about some reconciliation, we would welcome that because Bangladesh's position in this respect has been clear and categorical. It is some indication of the success of their stand that the other countries are now trying to bring about some reconciliation between Pakistan and Bangladesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

कोयले का उत्पादन

- * 66. श्री ओउम् प्रकाश त्यागी :
 श्री चन्द्र शेखर :
 श्री जयन्त श्रीधर तिलक :
 श्री एम० बी० सिंह :
 श्री निरेन घोष :
 डा० जेड० ए० अहमद :
 श्री गुरुमुखसिंह मुसाफिर :
 श्री ए० जी० कुलकर्णी :
 श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूडावत :
 श्री संयव हुसैन :
 श्री तवाई सिंह सिसोदिया :
 श्री काली मुखर्जी :
 श्री सनत कुमार राहा :
 श्री कृष्ण कान्त :
 श्री सन्दा नारायणप्पा :

क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में कोयले की अनुमानित वार्षिक मांग कितनी है और उसका उत्पादन कितना है ; और

(ख) बढ़ती हुई मांग को पूरा करने के लिए उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने हेतु क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

†[Coal Production

- *66. SHRI O. P. TYAGI :
 SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:
 SHRI J. S. TILAK :
 SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH :
 SHRI NIREN GHOSH :
 DR. Z. A. AHMAD :
 SHRI GURMUKH SINGH MUSAFIR :
 SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
 SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT :
 SHRI SAYED HUSSAIN :
 SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA :
 SHRI KALI MUKHARJEE :
 SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA :
 SHRI KRISHAN KANT :
 SHRI SANDA NARAYAN-APPA :

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

(a) the estimated annual demand for coal in the country together with its production; and

(b) what steps are being taken to increase production to meet the growing demand?

इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री केशव देव मालवीय) : (क) चालू वर्ष में देश की कोयले की अनुमानित वार्षिक मांग लगभग 850 से 900 लाख टन है जबकि उत्पादन 790 लाख टन होने की आशा है ।

(ख) बढ़ती हुई मांग को पूरा करने हेतु कोयले के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिए विभिन्न अल्पकालीन और दीर्घ कालीन उपाय किए जा रहे हैं । उत्पादन बढ़ाने

†[] English translation.