

(b) The position regarding the number of disputes, number of workers involved and number of mandays lost for the years 1972 and 1973 in public and private sectors is as follows :—

Year	No. of disputes	No. of workers involved	No. of mandays lost
1972			
Public Sector	538	415,843	3,345,618
Private Sector	2,705	1,320,894	17,198,298
Total	3,243	1,736,737	20,543,916
1973 (P*)			
Public Sector	673	782,853	2,912,327
Private Sector	2,251	1,319,415	15,059,904
Total	2,924	2,102,268	17,972,231

P=\*Provisional.

(c) The Industrial Relations Machinery continues to make efforts to minimise work-stoppages, through informal mediation, conciliation, adjudication or arbitration as necessary under the existing statutory provisions and voluntary arrangements.]

#### Scrapping of mini steel projects

1133. SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently scrapped mini steel projects; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Owing to the shortage of ferrous scrap, and of electric power in most of the States, it has been decided

to regulate the growth of the electric arc furnace industry consistent with the availability of essential inputs, and licensing of new units will be governed by these considerations.

#### Chinese presence in the indian ocean

1134. SHRI N. G. GORAY:

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken note of the recent Chinese Naval expansion in the Indian Ocean; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Government are not aware of any recent Chinese Naval expansion in the Indian Ocean.

(b) Does not arise.