

of Polymetallic sulphide mineralisation on the western side of Kolar Schist belt. Chemical analysis of the samples drawn from these' zones has revealed presence of silver, coppers graphite, nickel and cobalt in various proportions.

(b) The exploration work is still continuing and it is too early to form an opinion about the extent of reserves of these minerals and the economics of their exploitation.

Setting up of security system in the Asian Continent

*292. SHRI N. G. GORAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Statement of President Nikolav Podgorny of U.S.S.R. made at a dinner hosted by King Zahir Shah to the effect that the Soviet Union was setting up a security system in the Asian Continent :

(b) if so, whether this is a part of the Indo-Soviet Treaty ; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal for Asian Collective Security does not feature in the Indo-Soviet Treaty.

(c) While the Soviet Union has put forward the idea of Asian Collective Security no concrete proposals have so far been made by them in this regard. In our view it is for countries in the region to discuss various ideas on the subject and to evolve, in consultation with each other, ways and means to safeguard their independence and sovereignty and to strengthen cooperation amongst themselves in various fields.

युद्ध बंदियों की संख्या

*293. श्री सीताराम सिंह : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इस समय भारत में कितने पाकिस्तानी युद्ध बंदी हैं; और

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(ख) कितने युद्ध बंदियों को बंगला देश वापस भेजा गया है ?

Number of P.O.Ws

*293. SHRI SITARAM SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Pakistani POWs in India at present ; and

(b) the number of those POWs who have been sent back to Bangladesh ?]

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जगजीवन राम) :

(क) भारत में पाकिस्तानी युद्ध बंदियों की इस समय संख्या 73,506 है।

(ख) बंगाली मूल के 58 युद्धबंदी 1972 के आरम्भ में बंगला देश को सौंप दिये गये थे। अन्य 25 ऐसे युद्धबंदियों के मामलों पर उन्हें बंगलादेश को भेजने के लिए विचार किया जा रहा है।

[THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) The number of Pakistani prisoners of war held in India at present is 73,506.

(b) 58 prisoners of war of Bengali origin were handed over to Bangladesh in early 1972. Cases of another 25 such prisoners of war are being examined with a view to their repatriation to Bangladesh.]

Distribution of coal

*294. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the measures initiated by Government to increase coal production and streamline its distribution with a view to helping domestic brick burners and small-scale industries to get it at reasonable price and in adequate quantity ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T. A. PAI) : Except for the

[] English translation.