

Indian Aid to Srilanka

•J69. .SHRI I'. k. KUNJACHEN :
SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA :
SHRI SITARAM KESRI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have offered aid worth one crore of rupees to Srilanka; and

(b) if so, the purpose thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) Several preliminary proposals were put forward in the second meeting of the Indo-Sri Lanka Sub Committee on economic cooperation in Colombo in May, 1972, regarding establishment in Sri Lanka, with Indian assistance of a common Facilities Centre in an existing industrial estate *en* technical services centre; provision of Indian equipment for the establishment of an Indo-Sri Lanka Microwave link, and technical assistance *inter-alia* in the sphere of animal husbandry and mica mining. These proposals are to be discussed further in detail in meetings to be held between the two sides.

Scarcity of coal for industrial units

970. .SHRI DEBANANDA MAHAJAN : SHRI SUNDAR MANI DAS : SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO. SHRI K. c. PANDA:

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

(a) whether there is an acute scarcity of coal for industrial units in several States; and

(b) if so, whether any initiative has been taken by Government to meet the requirements of coal and if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA HANSDA): (a) There have been reports of shortage of

coal in several States, particularly for relatively low priority consumers, chiefly on account of considerable increase in the coal requirements of the power houses and the steel plants, which have to be accorded higher priority in the allotment of wagons.

(b) The Railways and the coal producing organisations are taking steps to augment movement of coal and these are expected to improve the situation progressively. The Government have also recently constituted a high level Committee to look into the problems of coal transport and distribution to ensure regular supplies to the various consumers.

Bridges built in Nepal by India

971. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether India has built a number of bridges in Nepal and whether some of them are longer than the longest bridges built there with assistance from other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): Over two decades the Government of India, with the co-operation of the Government of Nepal, have implemented several programmes of road construction and bridge-building in different parts of Nepal. Some of the bridges built by India are the longest in Nepal. Nevertheless, the length of the bridge is determined by the technical requirements—the ultimate aim being further improvement of the communications system in Nepal.

Original File on delineation of McMahon Line

972. SHRI M. k. MOHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the original file on delineation of the McMahon Line is in possession of a retired British ICS

officer who headed the political Department in Delhi during the British regime; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to recover the file and if so, the details thereof?