

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As far as the question of Pale POWs is concerned, the Government of India have taken several initiatives for an early solution of the question. It is only Pakistan Government's attitude which is responsible for delaying their early return. A new generous offer has now been made to Pakistan through the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Declaration, of April 17, 1973. In the meantime, Pak POWs continue to receive the most humane treatment in India.

#### COMPLETION OF MINI-SLEEL PLANT IN ORISSA

113. SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed mini-steel plant in Orissa has been constructed by now

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) whether it is in the joint sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMAR-MANGALAM (a) and (b) The question presumably refers to the sponge iron-cum-electric furnace complex proposed to be set up at Barbil Joda by the Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa for manufacture of sponge iron and billets. The Corporation are getting feasibility report prepared and technological matching tests of iron ores and coal conducted before implementing the scheme.

(c) the Corporation, who hold a letter of intent are a wholly state-owned undertaking.

#### CHINESE EXPERTS IN NEPAL

114. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT: SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Government of Nepal have asked Chinese experts to carry out the cotton growing feasibility survey at Butwal, hardly 25 Km. from the Indian border in Nepal Terai;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India have taken it as a breach of the Nepalese assurance given in 1965 that Chinese would not be allowed to be in this Terai region;

(c) Whether Government have since taken up the matter with the Nepal Government; and

(d) if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):

(a) Following an agreement between the Government of Nepal and China on July 16, 1971, an experimental cotton cultivation farm was set up near Butwal, roughly 25 miles from the Indian border.

(b) to (d) It has come to the knowledge of the Government of India that the farm has been closed down.

#### VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER OF INDONESIA TO INDIA

\*115. SHRIMATI SITA DEVI :  
SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN:  
SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indonesian Foreign Minister, Dr. Adam Malik, during his recent visit to India, offered his good offices to negotiate between India and Pakistan;