

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

(b) The details of the incident are as follows:

On 21st December, 1972, at 40.00 hours (local time) four shots were fired at the main door of the Consulate General of India, New York, three of them making clean holes and the fourth one piercing even the inner glass door. In the opinion of the local police who took up investigation, the shots appeared to have been fired by a powerful rifle from a car parked across the street. The local police were also assisted by the F.B.I. However the security agencies have not been able to identify the person/persons responsible for this. They had however strengthened the security arrangements near our Mission.

(c) Our Ambassador in Washington took up this matter with the State Department and the F.B.I., investigation was at their behest. All our Missions have been given detailed instructions regarding security measures to be adopted in dealing with such problems.

Since the details of the incident were communicated immediately, no special report as such was received.

ESPIONAGE ON SRILANKA NATIONALS VISITING INDIA

1668. SHRI K. PANDA;

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL;

SHRI GANESHILAL CHAU-DHARY:

SHRI C. D. PANDE; SHRI LOKANATH MISRA; SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Srilanka have been

spying in India on their nationals visiting this country;

(b) whether Government have received any report in this regard from Tamil Nadu Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Government do not have any information in this respect.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

STRIKE BAN BY WEST BENGAL

1669. SHRI KALYAN ROY: SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to serious criticisms by all the Central Trade Union Organisations regarding the decision of the West Bengal Government to ban strikes; and

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the West Bengal Government and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) The reference presumably is to the Industrial Disputes (West Bengal Amendment) Ordinance. Government have received representations against the proposed Ordinance

(b) The matter is under examination.

VIOLATION OF SAFETY REGULATIONS BY COAL MINES WORKERS

1670. SHRI KALYAN ROY;

SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of non-coking colliery managements who are receiving subsidy and

financial assistance through the Coal Board from the Government are violating Safety and Conservation Laws; and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the names of coal mines who have received subsidy and assistance in 1971 and 1972 but are being prosecuted by the Director General of Mines Safety for serious violation of various Safety Laws; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA HANS-DA)-, (a) The non-coking collieries which were reported to have violated. Safety and Conservation Rules were not paid any subsidy by the Coal Board.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

PRICING POLICY OF STEEL

1671. SHRI J. S. TILAK:

SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH

MUSAFIR: SHRI CHANDRA

SHEKHAR: SHRI KRISHAN
KANT:

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

(a) whether pricing policy for steel has been finalised for the existing and coming units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA HANS-DA): (a) and (b). 'The present steel pricing broadly follows the principles enunciated by the Tariff Commission in 1962, taking into account cost of production, reasonable return, etc., on a 'standard' plant. Subsequent increases in prices were allowed taking into consideration escalations in cost, while the price increase allowed with effect from January 1, 1970, also took into account the financial need* of Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. for its replacement and modernisation programme.

21 RSD.—3.

EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION IN DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT

1672. SHRI M. K. MOHTA:

MISS GAROJ PURUSHOT-

TAM KHAPARDE-SHRI

SANAT KUMAR RAH A:

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

(a) whether Government are examining the feasibility of the programme for expansion of production at Durgapur Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the financial implications of the expansion of the project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA HANS-DA): (a) to (c). The Central Engineering and Design Bureau of Hindustan Steel have been commissioned to prepare a detailed feasibility study of expansion of the Durgapur Steel Plant. The details of the possible expansion programme such as capacity, cost, etc., will be available only after the feasibility report is received.

VIGILANCE WORK IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

1673. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) what were the arrangements which existed in the Department of Supply at the level of Joint Secretary to look after the vigilance and purchase work separately before the creation of another post of Joint Secretary; and the reasons for entrusting the vigilance work to the same person after his promotion; and

(b) whether any person has since been selected for the post of D.G., I.S.M., London and if so, the details thereof and the reasons which weighed with Government in the matter of selection and if not, when the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?