

t[THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHA-DILKAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.]

P.O.W. ESCAPED FROM FATEHGARH

408. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Pakistani Prisoners of War from the Rajput Regimental Centre, Fatehgarh have escaped from custody:

(b) whether Government have made any investigations into their escape: and

(c) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) 5 Prisoners of War managed to escape from a POW Camp at Fatehgarh. No prisoners of war are housed in Rajput Regimental Centre, Fatehgarh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As a result of the inquiry, the circumstances and the details of the attempts made by POWs have been ascertained, resulting in suitable remedial measures being taken.

DEMAND OF LOCO COAL SUPPLIERS

409. SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

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

(a) whether the loco coal suppliers have sought assistance from his Ministry to secure for their price rise of Rs. 3.50 per tonne from the Railways; and

(b) if so, what are his Ministry's views thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) We are not aware of any such specific request. However, it may be stated that consequent to the decontrol of coal prices with effect from 24-7-1967, it is now entirely for the buyers and sellers to settle

t[] English translation.

the coal prices mutually. In pursuance of this Railways have entered into firm contracts with the suppliers of coal to Railways valid upto 31-12-1972. These prices are based on the recommendations of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices.

REPATRIATION OF CIVILIANS

410. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:
SHRI V. R. MOHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Pakistan recently exchanged some civilians captured during the December war in the Western sector;

(b) if so, the number of persons exchanged;

(c) the number of civilians still in the custody of the two countries; and

(d) the steps taken to have them repatriated?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Out of a list of 531 Indian nationals reportedly taken into custody from captured Indian territory, 273 have been repatriated to India. The entire number of 585 Pakistani nationals into custody with us have been repatriated to Pakistan.

The question of the remaining Indian nationals is being pursued through the ICRC as well as through the Embassy of Switzerland, but their reply is still awaited.

SHIFTING OF I. C. C. FROM SAIGON TO HANOI

111. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD
MATHUR:

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH:

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD:

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI
KUMARI CHAUNDAWAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a move to shift the ICC, from Saigon to Hanoi;