

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) HAL have started progressive manufacture of SA-315 helicopters. The manufacture of this helicopter has been taken up under a licence agreement with SNIAS of France, to meet the requirements of Armed Forces for Air Observation Posts duties.

SIGNING A TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES

809. SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Minister made a statement in Washington at the National Press Club to the effect that India was ready to sign a treaty of friendship with the United States; and

(b) the reaction of the U. S. Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Replying to a question on this subject at the National Press Club in Washington on September 27 the Finance Minister indicated Government's willingness to sign a treaty of friendship with any country on the basis of mutuality of interests. He went on to imply that at the present moment the question of concluding such a treaty between India and the United States is not engaging the attention of either government.

(b) Does not arise.

STRIKE BY COLLIERY WORKERS IN ASANSOL

810. SHRI N. G. GORAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 3000 colliery workers from the Sirpur and Rana Colliery in Asansol in West Bengal have gone on a wild-cat strike since October 22, 1972;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to meet the demands of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) About 2700 workers of Rana Colliery and 634 workers of Sripur Seam Inc-

line Colliery resorted to strike w. e. f. 22nd October, 1972 and 1.10.72 respectively.

(b) The strike was in protest against introduction of seven day work in the Colliery by the Management.

(c) As a result of intervention by C. I. R. M., settlements have been reached on both the cases on 1.11.72 and 6.10.72 respectively.

WAR CRIME TRIALS IN BANGLA DESH

811. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN: SHRI P. S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talks have been held recently about the handing over of Pakistani P. O. Ws. to Bangla Desh for war-crimes trials;

(b) the number of P. O. Ws required by the Bangla Desh Government in connection with such trials; and

(c) the decision, if any, taken as a result of such talks about the handing over of the P. O. Ws to Bangla Desh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not known.

(c) Does not arise.

PATROL BOATS ACQUIRED BY PAKISTAN

812. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that five patrol boats have been acquired from China by Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to equip our armed forces against such acquisition?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) It is understood that Pakistan has received some patrol craft from China. The exact number is, however, not known.

(b) Government are aware of the situation and all possible steps are being taken in the matter.

PAKISTAN'S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN CENTO

813. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: