

been formed on 18-5-1972 under the auspices of the Government of West Bengal to boost up allotment of wagons and thereby extending initiative to the collieries to increase production. The Government of West Bengal, the Railways and Members of different Chambers of Commerce are represented on this Committee, which meets fortnightly to find out ways and means to improve the allotment of wagons in the Raniganj coalfield.

IMMIGRANTS CROSSED OVER TO INDIA

357. **SHRI M. K. MOHTA :**
SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL :
SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JAGGARLAMUDI :
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI K. C. PANDA :

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

(a) whether attention of the Government of India has been invited to a report appearing in the Patriot, dated the 23rd May, 1972 to the effect that a large number of immigrants who crossed over to India from the erstwhile East Pakistan before 25th March, 1971, are unwilling to return to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have seen a report published in the Patriot dated the 23rd May, 1972, which, however, does not mention that the migrants from erstwhile East Pakistan, who came before 25th March, 1971 are unwilling to return to Bangladesh.

(b) Applications were received from about 4,500 migrant families who came to India earlier than the 26th March, 1971 and residing in various relief camps and rehabilitation areas in the different States expressing their desire to go back to Bangladesh. Many

more such families, it is learnt, are keen to go back to Bangladesh.

The arrangements made by the Government for repatriation of the migrants to Bangladesh were confined to those who had been registered as foreigners. These arrangements do not cover those who had crossed over to India from East Bengal before 26th March, 1971 as migrants and have acquired or acquiring Indian citizenship. The present policy in respect of the families who came before the 26th March, 1971 is that they will continue to receive relief and rehabilitation assistance, with a view to their settlement in India, in accordance with the existing orders. The Government of India are, however, aware of the desire of the migrants generally to return to Bangladesh. The matter may be taken up with the Bangladesh Government if and when there is an opportunity.

DEVELOPMENT OF STEEL INDUSTRY IN BANGLADESH

358. **SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON :**
SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA :
SHRI SITARAM KESRI :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a study team visited Bangladesh to hold discussion on raw material resources to help Bangladesh to develop its steel industry; and

(b) if so, what are the findings of that team?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) No, Sir. However, a Hindustan Steel Limited team visited Bangladesh to arrange the supply of iron and steel materials urgently required by the Government of Bangladesh.

(b) Does not arise.