

asking for plebiscite in Tibet in order to ascertain whether the Tibetans desire to remain under the Chinese rule, and

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

विदेश मन्त्रालय में उपमन्त्री (श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह) (क) सरकार ने इस आशय की खबरें देखी हैं।

(ख) भारत सरकार तिब्बत को चीन का एक अंग मानती है और इस बारे में सरकार की नीति में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं आया है।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Government have seen press reports to that effect.

(b) Government of India regards Tibet as a part of China and there is no change in Government's stand on this question.]

BHUTTO'S READINESS TO MEET INDIAN LEADERS

*100. **SHRI SITARAM KESRI:**
SHRI RAM SAHAI,
SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN:
SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan's President Mr Bhutto has recently shown his readiness to meet the Indian leaders to settle the outstanding disputes between India and Pakistan; and

(b) whether any official communication has been received in this connection, and if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Government have seen reports to this effect.

(b) Government have already communicated to the United Nations Secretary General their readiness to hold direct talks with Pakistan at any level, at any time and without any preconditions. The final response of the Government of Pakistan to this offer is awaited.

†[] English translation.

EXPORTABLE GOODS OF BANGLA DESH

*101. **SHRI A. D. MANI:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether exportable stocks of goods including newsprint, spices and dried fish, worth between Rs 20 crores to Rs. 40 crores have been located at various places in Bangla Desh, and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to buy these stocks for consumption in India or for re-export after they are converted into finished products ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) It is understood that exportable stocks of goods, including newsprint, spices and dried fish, are available in Bangla Desh but the exact value of the stocks is not known.

(b) The matter is under discussion with the Bangla Desh authorities.

FINANCIAL LOSS OF HINDUSTAN STEEL LTD

*102. **SHRI M. K. MOHTA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to State:

(a) Whether it is a fact that loss of Hindustan Steel Limited during the financial year 1971-72 is likely to be more than Rs. 50 crores;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the cumulative loss that would be incurred at the close of the financial year 1971-72, and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to minimise the losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMAR MANGALAM): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The working results of Hindustan Steel Limited for the financial year 1971-72 would become known only after the accounts for the year have been closed and audited. The indications, however, are that the Company would sustain a substantial loss this year. This is primarily due, to shortfalls in production resulting from the collapse of the roof of the Steel Melting Shop of Rourkela Steel Plant