

withdrawal of Indian troops was completed on 15th March, 1972, in advance of the agreed date, namely, the 25th March, 1972.

(b) This is a matter entirely within the jurisdiction of the Bangla Desh Government.

REOPENING OF BBC OFFICES

364. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARA-YANA : SHRI S. A. KHAJA
MOHIDEEN : SHRI K.L.N. PRASAD :
SHRI N.R. MUNISWAMY :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the B.B.G., London has approached Government for permission to reopen its offices in India ; and

(b) whether the B.B.G. has agreed to abide by all rules and regulations imposed by Government ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes. Sir.

AKALI DEMONSTRATION IN LONDON

365. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARA-YANA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether sonic Akalis organised a demonstration asking for a Sikh Homeland in front of the hotel in London, where the Prime Minister was staying during her tour to U. K. ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government there to?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) A handful of dissident members of the Shiromani Akali Dal of United Kingdom staged a demonstration before the Claridge's Hotel where the Prime Minister was staying during his visit to the U.K. in October, 1971. The demonstrators carried placards reading "Hands off! Gurdwaras".

The demonstration appeared to have been inspired by interests outside the Akali Dal itself.

LABOUR POLICY DURING FOURTH PLAN

366. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARA-YANA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Labour Policy during the Fourth Five Year Plan period has been finalised by Government; if so, the salient features thereof; and

(b) whether in this regard discussions were held with the representatives of the workers ; and if so, names of the workers' organisations with whom discussions were held ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b) The Labour policy in the Fourth Plan was to be a continuation of the policy pursued earlier subject however to the changes that might be made on the basis of the recommendations of the National Commission on Labour. The Commission's recommendations have been discussed, at various tripartite meetings and some consensus was reached. The views of the workers' representatives on some of the major issues were also ascertained at a conference of the Trade Unions in May, 1971 and at an informal meeting convened by the Planning Commission in September, 1971. However, some of the controversial issues like the machinery for the settlement of disputes and recognition of trade unions are at present being discussed by the Indian National Trade Union Congress, the All India Trade Union Congress and the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, among themselves. At a meeting of the Working Party of Employers and Workers, held on February 7, 1972, these organisations reported some tentative agreement on the above issues. Since then they have met again and reached a limited accord. They have, however, yet to send an agreed formula.

MANUFACTURE OF SPONGE IRON

367. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARA-YANA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the number of letters of intent issued so far for the manufacture of sponge iron, based on direct reduction process with iron content ranging between 85 and 95 percent, that have materialised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : Only one letter