

offered to share technical know-how with India to develop the iron and steel industry, particularly industries based in special steel alloys and non-ferrous metals ; and

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached between the two countries in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES/इस्पात और खान मन्त्री (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) There has recently been no new offer from the Government of U S.S.R. to share technical know-how with India for developing the iron and steel industry.

(b) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF SHRI D. P. DHAR

431. SHRI A. D. MANI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ बाह्य विदेश मन्त्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether Shri D. P. Dhar has been appointed Chairman of the newly constituted Planning Board of the Ministry ; and

(b) if so, what are his functions and the reasons for setting up this Board and what is his rank and position in the warrant of precedence *vis a vis* other Secretaries ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मन्त्री (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Shri D. P. Dhar has been appointed Chairman of the Policy Planning Committee in the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) The functions of the Policy Planning Committee of which Shri D. P. Dhar is the Chairman are essentially to study, analyse and review foreign policy issues. The proposals of the Committee are of a recommendatory character for decision by Government.

The Committee was set up in 1966. It was felt that it would be useful to have a whole time Chairman in order to study foreign policy issues in depth. In the Warrant of Precedence Shri D. P. Dhar ranks next below the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

FOREIGN FLEETS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

432. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :
SHRI SUNDAR SINGH
BHANDARI :

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD
MATHUR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मन्त्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement made by the Second Secretary of the Embassy of U.S.S.R in Canberra to the effect that the Soviet Union is willing to withdraw its fleet from the Indian Ocean if Western countries would do the same ; and

(b) the names of the countries having their fleets in the Indian Ocean, and the location of the fleets ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ बाह्य विदेश मन्त्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen reports on this.

(b) Apart from the navies of the littoral States, Government is aware that the navies of Britain, France, Soviet Union and United States are present in the high seas of the Indian Ocean.

पश्चिम बंगाल में साल्टर कोयला खान का बन्द होना

*433. श्री सूरज प्रसाद : क्या श्रम और पुनर्वास मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पश्चिमी बंगाल के जिला पुरुलिया में साल्टर कोयलाखान, जो उसके मालिक मैसर्स बुराकर कोल कम्पनी लि० द्वारा 5 जून, 1971 को बन्द कर दी गई थी और जिसके परिणामस्वरूप एक हजार मजदूर बेरोजगार हो गये थे, की कोयला मजदूर यूनियन से सरकार को कोई शिकायत मिली है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो मजदूरों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ; और

(ग) क्या मजदूरों को वेतन, बोनस तथा अन्य सभी देय रकमों का भुगतान कर दिया गया है ; और यदि नहीं तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

