

that many of the coking coal mine owners have started indiscriminate disposal of machinery, equipment and vehicles and refrained deliberately from dewatering their mines and depriving workers of their wages; if so, the names of the mine owners who have removed machinery etc. and indulged in other malpractices;

(b) whether it is a fact that decision to take over Coking Coal Mines had leaked out and if so, whether the Government have made any thorough investigation into the matter, and if so, the results thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The other questions in this part do not, therefore, arise.

RE-ORGANISATION OF HINDUSTAN STEEL LTD.

408. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Steel Limited has been recently re-organised for better performance; and

(b) if so, what changes have been made in its different Units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) There has been no reorganisation of Hindustan Steel Limited. A number of top posts which fell vacant have been and are being filled up.

OFFER OF U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL

409. SHRI U.K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ विदेश मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Secretary-General of UNO has sent offers to mediate between India and Pakistan and also to post UN observers; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ विदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Secretary-General suggested the location of UN observers on both sides of the Indo-East Bengal border in an *Aide Memoire* dated the 19th of July 1971 addressed to the Governments of Pakistan and India. He has offered his good offices to deal with the situation in his communication dated the 20th of October, 1971, addressed to the Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan.

(b) The Government are of the view that the mere posting of UN observers and the Secretary-General's undertaking good offices, equating India and Pakistan, would only create a facade of action which will not meet the root cause of the situation in East Bengal, namely, the denial of the verdict of the people, and of their fundamental freedoms and human rights by the military regime of West Pakistan in that region. The Government's reply dated the 2nd August to the Secretary-General's proposal for posting UN observers was placed on the Table of the House on 3rd. August, 1971. A copy of the Prime Minister's reply to the Secretary-General's proposal, offering his good offices, is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix LXXVIII, Annexure No. 2].

INDO-SOVIET TREATY

410. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ विदेश मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether any consultations were held with the Soviet Government after the signing of the Indo-Soviet Treaty on August 9, 1971; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ विदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The consultations have contributed to establishing an identity of views on the situation in Bangla Desh and on the Indian sub-continent and to the further promotion of Indo-Soviet cooperation in all fields.