

to the reply to Starred Question No. 82 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st July[^] 1971 and state.

(a) what further steps have since been taken by Government to make the West Asian countries aware of the issues involved in the Bangla Desh problem; and

(b) the results so far achieved in this regard '.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मंत्री (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) The Government of India has taken diplomatic, and other steps, including special Ministerial Missions, to make the West Asian countries aware of the issues involved in the Bangla Desh problem. The Prime Minister sent a letter on August 10, 1971 requesting the friendly Governments to advise President Yahya Khan to stop the secret trial of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman. I sent a letter on September 14, 1971 to all the Foreign Ministers on the developments in Bangla Desh and the refugee problem. During my visit to the UN in September, 1971, I explained the situation in Bangla Desh and the refugee problem to a number of Foreign Ministers, including the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Kuwait, Iran and Jordan. These matters were also discussed by me with the Foreign Ministers from West Asian countries during the Consultative meeting of the Non-Aligned countries at the Foreign Ministers' level held at the United Nations on September 30, 1971.

(b) These countries are displaying a greater awareness of the developments in Bangla Desh and of the refugee problem, as would be evident from the endorsement of paragraph 7 of the Joint Communique of the Consultative Committee meeting of the Non-aligned countries at the Foreign Ministers' level which called for effective international action to bring about a political solution.

SHORTAGE OF STEEL IN THE COUNTRY

*279. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantum of steel shortage in the country; and

(b) how it is proposed to be met ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES/इस्पात और खान मंत्री (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) :

(a) The difference between the estimated requirements and the likely domestic production of finished mild steel in 1971-72 on the basis of the NCAER studies estimated to be about 1 million tonnes.

(b) Steps taken to meet the shortage of steel include attempts to step up domestic production by both short term and long term measures, increase in imports, streamlining of distribution and regulation of exports.

DISTRIBUTION OF STEEL

*280. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : SHRI VITHAL GADGIL : SHRIMATI VIMAL PUNJAB DESHMUKH :

SHRI B. S. SAVNEKAR : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government in connection with plugging of loopholes in the distribution of steel particularly to the Small Scale Sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES/इस्पात और खान मंत्री (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Distribution policy has been streamlined and made consumer-oriented. Certain measures have been taken to ensure

speedy processing of indents, issuance of sale orders within a specific time limit in delivery according to the allocations made by the Steel Priority Committee, which now meets quarterly.

The rolling programmes of the main producers are now regulated in accordance with national priorities and urgent requirements. A uniform system of consumer-oriented distribution of materials through the stockyards of the main producers has also been introduced. It has been decided that supplies of steel from the Plants to small scale units will be canalised through the State Small Scale Industries Corporations, who would be more familiar with the genuine requirements of the units served by them.

Regional Offices of Iron & Steel Controller have been set up to check mis-use of steel, and the assistance of the Central Bureau of Investigation will be taken, wherever necessary. Iron and Steel (Control) Order has been amended to provide that the use of steel for any purpose other than that for which it is allotted or applied for is now a violation of that order and as such will attract the penal provisions of the Essential Commodities Act.

CHAIRMAN, HINDUSTAN STEEL LTD.

*281. SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of Hindustan Steel Limited, has requested the Government

to relieve him of his present post as early as possible ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons cited by him for this request ; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES/इस्पात और खान मंत्री (SHRI S. MOHAN KLIMARAMANGALAM) : ia) to (c) Shri K.T. Chandy. Chairman, Hindustan Steel Ltd. had informed Go-

vernment some time back of his desire to relinquish his assignment as early as possible for personal reasons. The request of Shri Chandy has been accepted. He has proceeded on leave for 78 days from 15th November, 1971 and will formally relinquish charge of the post of Chairman, Hindustan Steel Ltd. at the end of this period of leave.

भारत रक्त की संयुक्त विज्ञप्ति

*282. श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर :

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :

श्री लाल शहावाणी :

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद दादय :

श्री देवदत्त कुमार कोकानाई पटेल :

डा० भाई महावीर :

श्री ना० कु० शंजयलकर :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सत्य है कि गत अगस्त में जारी की गई भारत रक्त संयुक्त विज्ञप्ति में विपक्षों की तथा "राष्ट्रीय रक्त मोर्चे" के कार्यक्रमों का तो उल्लेख है, किन्तु बंगला देश और पाकामी लोग के कार्यक्रमों का कोई उल्लेख नहीं है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सत्य है कि बंगला देश के चुने हुए प्रतिनिधियों तथा नेताओं द्वारा स्वतन्त्रता की घोषणा के बाद भी उक्त विज्ञप्ति में इन लोगों को "पाकिस्तानी" कहा गया है; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

•j[INDO-SOVIET JOINT COMMUNIQUE

*282. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : SHRI SUNDAR SINGH

SHANOWARI : SHRI LAI

K. ADVANI : SHRI J. P.

YADAV : SHRI DEVDATT

KUMAR

KIKABHAI PATEL : DR. BHAI

MAHAVIR : SHRI N. K.

SHLJWALKAR : Will the Minister

of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मंत्री be pleased to state :

t [] English translation.