

Singh, I am told, is connected with many newspapers commercially.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I am sorry. May I correct it? By 'connected' I did not mean this formal connection of a financial nature but I meant the newspapers which are very friendly to him and for which he has a special friendly corner in his heart.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

OFFER OF STAINLESS STEEL SHEETS BY THE HINDUSTAN STEEL LTD.

*270. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES/इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Steel Ltd. recently offered stainless steel sheets @Rs. 25,180 per M.T. while the price of Japanese steel is not more than Rs. 7,075 per M. T.;

(b) whether the same (H.S.L.) steel sheets have been offered by Haryana State Small Industries Corporation at the rate of Rs. 27,573 per M.T.; and

(c) whether the difference in the prices is approved by Government?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. HSL sold stainless steel sheets to the Haryana State Small Scale Industries and Export Corporation at the rate of Rs. 25,180 per tonne. The c.i.f. price of similar material imported from Japan is around Rs. 7,000 per tonne.

(b) According to the Government of Haryana, the material was released to allottees by the Haryana Corporation at the rate of Rs. 27,505 per M.T. ex-godown Jagadhri.

(c) As there is no price control on this commodity, the question of Government approval of sale and re-sale prices does not arise.

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ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN BY FRANCE

*274. SHRIMATI VIMAL PUNJAB DESHMUKH:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

SHRI VITHAL GADGIL:

SHRI B. S. SAVNEKAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that France is supplying arms to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, it is in contravention of the assurance given by the French Government to India to the effect that no arms would be supplied to Pakistan till normal conditions were restored in Bangla Desh?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मंत्री (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) & (b) The French Government have informed us that they have not entered into any new contracts for the supply of arms to Pakistan after the military action in Bangla Desh. They had also told us towards the end of June that they would not make any deliveries of arms to Pakistan even on old contracts. However, as there were press reports that France was continuing to supply arms to Pakistan, the matter was taken up with the French Government. The French Government denied through Agence France Presse on 6th July, 1971 the press stories that France was shipping arms to Pakistan.

SETTING UP OF MINI STEEL PLANTS

*275. SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA:

SHRI ARJUN ARORA:

DR. SALIG RAM:

SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

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

(a) what are the names of the parties whom letters of intent/industrial licences have been issued after March 18, 1971 for the setting up of Mini Steel Plants; and