

the internal affairs of Southern Rhodesia including maintenance of law and order, and it was, therefore, not in a position to intervene.

(c) No, Sir.

Pakistan Expanding Strategic Communications in Gilgit

- *303. {
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri M. L. Jadhav:
 Shri J. P. Jyotishi:
 Shri Solanki:
 Shri Narasimha Reddy:
 Shri Basappa:
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
 Shri Bade:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri Gulshan:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is expanding strategic communications in Gilgit just near cease-fire line in collaboration with China so as to thwart Indian supply line to Ladakh and to construct 156 mile road between Skardu and Gilgit; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) Pakistan is developing strategic communications in the Gilgit area near the cease-fire line, including the road from Skardu to Gilgit. We have, however, no information regarding any Sino-Pakistan collaboration in the matter.

(b) Necessary precautions have been taken.

Heavy Industrial Projects

- *304. {
 Shri Vasudevan Nair:
 Shri Chandak:
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
 Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
 Shri K. C. Pant:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a recent communication to the Central Ministers he has suggested postponement of the execution of heavy industrial projects; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). It was found that of the heavy industries projects, commenced since the beginning of the Third Plan, the progress in several cases towards completion was lagging behind schedule. It was considered that it would be better to concentrate attention on these projects in order to ensure quick completion before new projects are taken in hand. This would also help towards the most economic use of the available resources—not only finance but also steel cement etc. Nevertheless plans for new projects which are of national importance such as Bokaro would not be slowed down.

P. and T. Board

*305. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any evaluation or review of the working of P.&T. Board as autonomous body had been made as promised at the time of its constitution;

(b) if so, the nature of the review or evaluation and the conclusions arrived at;

(c) if not, when it is proposed to be made; and

(d) what benefits in positive terms have accrued from this change?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Communications. (Shri Bhagavati): (a) to (c). Attention in this connection is invited to the reply to Question No. 204 in the Lok Sabha on the 26th November, 1963 where in it was stated that the Estimates Committee of the Parliament went into