

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) Large-scale and injudicious use of computers will not be desirable. Government's policy is that automation including computerisation should be tried out on a selective basis and that technological advance should be regulated to make it consistent with the social good of the community.

(b) Computers are capable of being used to help in the effective utilisation of resources.

Import of Substantial Portion of requirements of Engine developed for a new Plane

*720. **SHRI D. K. PANDA:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a substantial portion of the engine requirements of the new planes that are being developed will have to be imported from foreign countries; and

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to bring down these imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). It is not possible to indicate at this stage to what extent engines for the planes that are now being developed will be required to be imported. However, in all such projects a few engines may have to be imported initially until our own indigenously designed engines are available. Steps are being taken to design and develop sophisticated aero-engines to meet our future requirements. Where such engines cannot be developed, technical collaboration from foreign manufacturers for indigenous production is also considered.

Diamond Drilling Contract to 'Bird & Co.'

6850. **SHRI S. N. MISRA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Bird and Co.' had a diamond drilling contract at Khetri Project;

(b) whether the present Chairman of Hindustan Copper Limited who was then an employee of the said company, operated the contract at that time; and

(c) what consideration weighed heavy with the Government to appoint him as Chairman of the Khetri Project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The diamond drilling contract was awarded to M/s. Bird & Co. in 1967 by the National Mineral Development Corporation, then responsible for the Khetri Copper Project.

(b) The present Chairman of Hindustan Copper Ltd., who was in 1967 an employee of Bird & Co., was in no way connected with this contract in 1967 when the Contract was awarded. He was then working in the Minerals Department of Bird & Co. a department which had nothing to do with the drilling. He was transferred in mid-1968 from Calcutta to Delhi as Incharge of Delhi Office and the drilling department of Bird & Co. then came under him. It may be mentioned however, that a penalty of forfeiture of the entire amount of Bank Guarantee of Rs. 1,50,000 furnished by Bird & Co., for their failure to complete the work within the stipulated period was imposed after the present Chairman joined Hindustan Copper Limited.

(c) He had worked with Bird & Co. for over a decade and held various top level managerial positions before his appointment in Hindustan Copper Ltd. It was considered that with his managerial experience, he should be able effectively to handle the problems of the Company during critical phase of its development. He had also been empanelled under Schedule 'C' by the Empanelment Selection Board.

Constitution of High Power Committee Re-organisation of N.C.C.

6851. **SHRI DHARAMRAO AFZALPURKAR:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a high power Committee to recom-

mend measures necessary for changes in the aims and objectives and organisation of the National Cadet Corps; and

(b) if so, the particulars thereof and when its report is likely to be submitted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library.* See No. LT-4789/73].

Production of High Standard of Steel Sheets at Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant

6852. **SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working of present hand-driven sheet mill of Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant is not satisfactory according to the capability of producing various types of steel sheets of high standard; and

(b) if so, what efforts have been made by Government in this regard for the improvement in this field?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) While the hand sheet mill of Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur, is not unsuitable for production of small tonnages of certain types of alloy steels, it is, in terms of present day technology, not quite suited for production of high quality flat products on a commercial scale in a competitive market.

(b) This is linked up with the question of the product-mix for the expansion of the plant which is under review.

Soviet Support to India's stand on Aksai Chin

6853. **SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received intimation from U.S.S.R. regarding Soviet Government's support to India's stand on Aksai Chin; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the stand of U.S.S.R. on Aksai Chin as indicated to the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No recent intimation has been received from the U.S.S.R. Government on the subject

(b) Does not arise.

Meeting of Non-Aligned Nations

6854. **SHRI BISHWANATH JHUN-JHUNWALA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been sounded for a meeting of the non-aligned nations and a preparatory meeting will be held shortly in Kabul to work out the details of the proposed conference; and

(b) whether India participated in the preparatory meeting and if so whether any decision has been taken with regard to the nations that are to be invited in the proposed conference, the venue and the agenda and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) It was agreed at the conference of Foreign Ministers of non-aligned countries held in Georgetown in August, 1972 that a Conference of Heads of States, Governments of non-aligned countries should be held in Algiers in September, 1973. A Preparatory Committee consisting of 17 countries including India will meet in Kabul, Afghanistan, from 13 to 15 May, to work out the agenda for the Summit and other details.

(b) Does not arise.

Proposal to post a Senior Officer at Indian Consulate in Saigon

6855. **SHRI BISHWANATH JHUN-JHUNWALA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Consulate at Saigon is not being manned by the Con-