

(b) Yes sir.

(c) The minimum age of marriage is proposed to be raised from eighteen to twenty-one years for males and from fifteen to sixteen years for females. A Bill for the purpose is likely to be introduced in Parliament in the current session.

**Cold Rolling Mill Complex, Bokaro Entrusted to American Firms**

671. SHRI M. SATYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1629 on the 23rd June, 1977 regarding installed capacity of Bokaro Steel Plant and state the reasons for entrusting the completion of the cold rolling mill complex at Bokaro to two American firms?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): The work relating to the expansion of the cold rolling mill complex in Bokaro Steel Plant has been entrusted to certain Indian organisations such as MECON, EPI, BHEL, and HEC who are expected to do a major portion of the designing and manufacturing themselves or through other Indian parties. Use will also be made by MECON and EPI of their existing licence agreements with M/s. Wean United of U.S.A. for the rolling mills and the processing lines respectively. Similarly, BHEL will use their know-how licence agreement with M/s Siemens of West Germany for systems design for electrical drives and controls.

The main reason for deciding on the aforesaid agreement is to maximise the quantum of work to be done by the Indian organisations with minimum foreign assistance. This will not only create a wider technical base for the indigenous parties but also lead greater self-reliance in an area of highly sophisticated technology in the steel

sector. At the same time, this agreement also leaves the options open to us for using the best technology available for specific areas of work.

**White attack on Indian Staff in London**

672. SHRI RAMANAND TIWARY:  
SHRI S. G. MURUGAIYAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn towards news item entitled "White Attack Indian Staff in London" (Statesman 24-9-77); and

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the British Government with a view to provide security to the Indians living there?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes Sir. On 22nd September 1977 at 7.30 p.m., a group of 8 teenage boys threw stones and broke some glass-panes of the Jawaharbagh flats owned by the Government of India in South London in which our junior-level officials are housed.

(b) The matter was taken up with the local police who took up investigation and also made necessary protective arrangements. The police authorities subsequently arrested 8 white boys who confessed to the incident.

सरकार द्वारा झारखण्डा जिले में डोंगरी  
खानों प्रभने ध्वंसिकार में लेना

673. श्री लक्ष्मण राव मानकर :  
क्या इत्यात और खान मंत्री यह बताने  
की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने झारखण्डा  
जिले में डोंगरी खानों के प्रबन्ध को

कोयला परियोजना खनन संगठन कम्पनी से अपने हाथ में ले लिया है ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार कोयला परियोजना खनन संगठन कम्पनी के सभी श्रमिकों और कर्मचारियों को खपाने का विचार रखती है ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री ( श्री करिया मुण्डा ) :  
(क) सम्भवतः प्रश्न का अभिप्राय सेन्ट्रल प्रोविन्सेस मैंगनीज कम्पनी लिमिटेड से है न कि कोयला परियोजना खनन संगठन कम्पनी से। भारत सरकार तथा सेन्ट्रल प्रोविन्सेस मैंगनीज कम्पनी लिमिटेड (सी० पी० एम० ओ०) के बीच हुए एक समझौते के अधीन मैंगनीज और (इंडिया) लि० (मोइल) ने डोंगरी बुजुर्ग खानों में सी० पी० एम० ओ० की अचल तथा चल सम्पत्ति का अधिग्रहण कर लिया है;

(ख) मैंगनीज और (इंडिया) लिमिटेड ने अधिग्रहण करने की तारीख से डोंगरी बुजुर्ग खान में सी० पी० एम० ओ० द्वारा सीधे रूप में भर्ती किए गए सभी कर्मचारियों को नए सिरे से नौकरी की पेशकश की थी तथा उन सभी कर्मचारियों ने मोइल में नौकरी कर ली है।

#### Memorandum by National Federation of P&T Employees Union

674. SHRI S. C. MURUGAIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received a Memorandum from the National Federation of P&T employees Union stating some of their grievances when he

visited Patna in the first week of September; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) A Memorandum was received from the Bihar Circle "Coordinating Committee" of the National Federation of P&T Employees.

(b) The Co-ordinating Committee is not a recognised body and therefore no action was necessary.

#### HISCO Ltd. as a Subsidiary of SAIL

675. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to make the Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b). Government have recently taken certain decisions regarding the restructuring of Public Sector Steel Industry. One of the decisions is that, in order to ensure a coordinated development of the Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd., the shares presently held by Government in this Company should be transferred to Steel Authority of India Ltd. On the transfer of these shares the Company will become a subsidiary of SAIL. A proposal is also under consideration to acquire the shares held by the public financial institutions and others, and to transfer them to Steel Authority of India Ltd., so that the Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd., will also become a division of SAIL.