

abroad I gained a clear impression that foreign media had shown full appreciation of the recent political changes in India and the resurgence of democratic forces within the country. Government's policy of genuine non-alignment and our success in improving bilateral relations with our immediate neighbours have also been noted and welcomed by influential sections in various countries.

(b) and (c) Stepping of publicity efforts in order to make it more effective is constantly under review of the Government. Our Missions have been asked to make every effort within our resources to project India's cultural and independent personality abroad.

#### Losses in Durgapur Steel Plant

1512 SHRI S R DAMANI Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the causes for continued losses suffered by Durgapur Steel Plant have been gone into

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether it is a fact that the current year also will end in loss in spite of the expected higher production, and

(d) if so, the action Government have taken to make the working of the unit viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The major reasons for the losses are —

(i) Lower production and lower capacity utilisation due to power restrictions, poor quality of coal, adverse industrial relations and deterioration in the condition of coke oven batteries due to thermal shocks (resulting in lower avail-

bility of coke and gas and utilisation of costlier fuel instead),

(ii) Unremunerative prices for some of its products, and

(iii) Constraints in marketing some of its products

(c) Yes, S.r

(d) The question of revising upward the prices of some of its products supplied to the Railways, viz., wheels and axles, sleepers and fish plates, is under examination in consultation with the Railway Board and the Chief Cost Accounts Officer. A scheme for diversification of its product-mix is also under consideration.

#### Anglo-American Package Plan on Rhodesia

1513 SHRI CHITTA BASU Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the reaction of Government to the Anglo-American Package Plan to resolve the Rhodesian Crisis, and

(b) what follow-up steps Government propose to take for establishment of majority rule in that country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) (a) and (b) The Government of India considers that the Anglo-American proposal on Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) contains several positive elements such as surrender of power by the illegal Smith regime and return to legality, an orderly and peaceful transition to independence in the course of 1978 and free and impartial elections on the basis of universal adult suffrage etc. The Government of India finds these proposals as constituting a reasonable basis for further negotiations to the accession to independence of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and bringing about majority rule there. The Government of India maintains that the problem of Zimbabwe should be resolved peacefully, if possible, and through