

Cut in U.S. Contribution to U. N. Fund

2564. SHRI BHOLA MANJHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the move in U.S.A. to cut down that country's contribution to U.N. Funds following the expulsion of Taiwan from the World Organisation ; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. A move has been made in the U.S. Congress to this effect.

(b) The Charter of the UN lays down that "the expenses of the Organisation shall be borne by the Members as apportioned by the General Assembly".

As regards the operational activities of the Organisation in the development field, these are largely financed through voluntary contributions. However, a reduction in such contributions by an important developed country would not be consistent with the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade.

Casualties in Durgapur Steel Plant due to leakage of Gas Pipelines

2565. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether one Chowkidar of Heavy Maintenance Department of Durgapur Steel Plant died and 23 others injured due to leakage of gas pipelines of the Blast Furnace Department in the plant on the 19th August, 1971.

(b) if so, whether Government have instituted any inquiry into this accident and the findings thereof ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to avoid such accidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) One

Chowkidar died due to inhaling of the blast furnace gas and 22 others were affected by the gas on the 18th/19th August 1971.

(b) The findings of the Committee that conducted the enquiry is that the accident occurred due the breakage of one of the Blast Furnace gas line seals.

(c) The Committee has recommended various steps including modification of the water seal. Till such time as the changes are affected, stricter routine check up has been instituted in every shift.

Auction of Diamonds by National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.

2566. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Commercial Wing of the National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. auctions diamonds at various places in the country ;

(b) if so, the places and number of times auction took place during the last three years ; and

(c) the total number of employees working in this wing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Commercial Wing of the National Mineral Development Corporation was formed only in May, 1970. Since then eleven auctions, in all, at Jaipur, Bangalore, Panna, Delhi, Bombay and Madras have been held at regular intervals.

(c) The total number of employees in this Wing is 12.

Building of National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. at Faridabad

2567. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN : SHRI HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Mineral Deve-