

**Issue of Letters of Intent for Manufacture of Sponge Iron**

439. SHRI NAGESHWARA RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the number of letters of intent issued for the manufacture of sponge iron, based on direct reduction process with iron content ranging between 85-95 per cent, that have materialised, together with particulars thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : Only one letter of intent has been issued in favour of the Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa for the manufacture of 100,000 tonnes of Sponge iron per annum by the direct reduction process. This unit has not come up as yet.

**Remarks attributed to Late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru by an Officer of Israeli Foreign Ministry**

440. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an interview of Mr. Gideon Rafael, former Dir. General of the Foreign Ministry of Israel imputing many statements to the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and circulated in India widely ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to these statements ; and

(c) whether any change in our attitude and relationship with Israel is contemplated ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The records available with the Government of India do not substantiate the statements made by former Director-General of the Foreign Ministry of Israel.

(c) The Government's policy towards the countries of West Asia, based on principles of international conduct and overall considera-

tion of our national interest, is constantly under review. No change is called for.

**Construction of Salem Steel Plant**

441. SHRI K. GOPAL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the stage at which the construction of Salem Steel Plant stands at present ;

(b) whether acquisition of the steel plant site has been completed by the Government of Tamil Nadu ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to expedite construction of the Plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (c) M/s. M. N. Dastur and Co. (P) Ltd., who were commissioned for the preparation of the Techno-Economic Feasibility Report on the Salem Steel Project, have submitted their report. A decision on the product-mix and technology to be employed would be taken shortly on the basis of which Detailed Project Report and estimates of cost would have to be prepared by the Consultants. Meantime, the following steps have been taken to expedite construction :

(i) *Land Acquisition*

The plant area covering about 2,750 acres has been demarcated on the advice of the Consultants. Out of this, priority has been accorded for the acquisition of about 1,372 acres in the first instance. The Government of Tamilnadu expect to complete acquisition of this area (1,372 acres) before the end of April, 1972.

(ii) *Water Supply*

Proposals have been drawn up for meeting the requirements of water during the construction stage as well as during the operation and maintenance stage of the plant and for the proposed township.

(iii) *Power Supply*

Advance action has been taken in consultation with the State Electricity Board for meeting the requirements of power during

the construction stage as well as during the operation and maintenance stage of the plant.

(iv) *Exchange Yard and Sidings*

The Railways have completed their survey for the exchange yard and sidings.

(v) *Site Levelling*

Messrs Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited have prepared a preliminary estimate for site levelling. They have estimated that this work can be completed in about 18 months. Action is being taken for arranging the necessary earthmoving machinery for execution of this work.

(vi) *Testing of raw materials*

Further samples of Kanjamalai ore have been taken after drilling deep holes and these samples are being tested at the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur.

**Service conditions of E.S.I.C. Employees**

442. SHRI RAJA KULKARNI : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government consider the employees of Employees' State Insurance Corporation as Government employees ; and

(b) if so, the reasons why they are not covered under the terms of reference of the Third Pay Commission for determination of their major service conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) The employees of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation are not Government servants.

(b) Does not arise.

**Reference to India's Internal matters in Sino-U. S. Joint Communiqué**

443. SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI :  
SHRI VARKEY GEORGE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL

AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the joint communiqué issued by the American President and the Chinese Prime Minister in Peking ;

(b) whether both sides have supported the withdrawal troops by India and Pakistan to the position existing before the last war and the demand of self-determination by the people of Kashmir ,

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Government have seen the joint communiqué issued by the American President and the Chinese Prime Minister.

(b) Both sides have supported the withdrawal of troops by India and Pakistan to within their own territories and to their own sides of the cease-fire line in Jammu and Kashmir. China has supported the demand for self-determination by the people of Kashmir

(c) Government consider the reference to Kashmir as a gross interference in the internal affairs of India.

**Picketing of Cochin Cashew Corporation Office**

444. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a picketing in the Cochin Cashew Corporation office in the month of February, 1972 by more than one thousand cashew workers from different parts of Kerala State , and

(b) if so, their demands and steps taken by Government to meet them ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b). The Matter falls in the State sphere.