

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It is the policy of the Government to solve bilateral issues bilaterally.

Representation of India on the Tribunal to be set up for trial of POWs

681. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any communication has been received from the Government of Bangladesh for handing over some of the prisoners-of-war for trial as war criminals, and if so, their number and ranks;

(b) whether India has been requested to be represented in the Tribunal that is being set up in Bangladesh for trial of POWs; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Production in Neyveli Lignite Corporation

682. SHRI N. K. SANGHI:

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:

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

(a) whether the Neyveli Lignite Corporation is progressively running into loss due to production being decreased year after year.

(b) the total investment in the integrated project and the accumulated loss so far;

(c) whether Government have considered the recommendations of Prof. Subramaniam Committee to revitalise the Project; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to run the project profitably.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) No. The Neyveli Lignite Corporation continues to sustain losses due to decrease in production. The production figures for the past four years and the losses for these years are furnished below:—

	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
Lignite (m.t.)	3.98	4.28	3.31	3.72
Power (MU)	2070	2242	1801	2168
Coal (tonnes)	89,924	88,166	68,588	43,079
Loco (tonnes)	1,30,753	1,36,233	72,328	72,911
Loss (Rs. in lakhs)	227.97	234.73	1073.24	1298 (prov)

(b) Total investment in the integrated Project as on 31-3-1972 is as follows:—

Equity	Rs. 8000 lakhs
Loan	Rs. 8948.74 lakhs (net after repayment).

The accumulated loss incurred upto 31-3-72 is Rs. 4490.72 lakhs (which includes amount of Rs. 1237.83 lakhs being the provisional figures for 1971-72).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The following steps are being taken by the Government to revitalise the project:—

(i) The Corporation is procuring additional mining equipments for

increasing the production of Lignite from the present level of 3.6 million tonnes to 4.2 million tonnes in 1973-74 & to 4.5 million tonnes from 74-75 onwards

(ii) A detailed project report is also being prepared for stepping up the production of Lignite further to 6.5 million tonnes per year.

(iii) As recommended by Prof. Subramaniam Committee, forward preparation of ground is being inten-

sified by increased blasting to improve the overburden output from mines. For this, 2 drills are already on order and other 2 more drills are also being procured.

- (iv) The mines are being reorganised with a view to achieve better utilisation of mining equipment and reduction in the level of expenditure.
- (v) Government has set up a committee to examine the feasibility of converting some units in the thermal power station of Neyveli Lignite Corporation to coal or oil firing.

Recognition of P.R.G. of South Vietnam

683 SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the proposal to recognise the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam:

(b) if so, when it is likely to be recognised; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in negative, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c). Government of India's stand on the question as stated in the House in reply to Starred Question No. 52 of 16th March, 1972 still stands in view of the fluid situation prevailing in South Vietnam.

Strike by Artisans of H.E.C., Ranchi

684. SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL: SHRI HARI SINGH:

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

(a) whether the artisans of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi went on tool-down strike in May;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the local authorities prohibited the artisans from entering the factory; if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to meet the demands of the artisans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Only the artisans trained in the Central Training Institute' went on a tool down strike in May.

(b) As some of the demands of those artisans relating to conditions of service were considered unreasonable and were not conceded by the HEC management, a tool down strike was resorted to.

(c) Yes. The striking artisans were causing serious obstruction to work and were not allowing other willing workers to operate the machines.

(d) In such matters Government encourages the management and the employees to negotiate and reach a settlement. As a result of conciliation proceedings held by the Labour Commissioner, Government of Bihar, a settlement was reached and the striking artisans have called off their strike and resumed work on 11th July, 1972. Since then a round of discussions between HEC management and the HEC Artisans Association has taken place. A settlement has been reached in respect to some of the demands. The help of the Department of Labour, Government of Bihar has been sought by the management for a settlement of rest of the demands.

Wages and Overtime Allowance paid to Employees of Plants under Hindustan Steel, Ltd.

685. SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the total amount paid as wages and overtime allowance to the employees of the three plants under the Hindustan Steel Limited during 1969, 1970 and 1971 year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): The total amounts paid as wages and overtime allowance to the employees of the Bhilai, Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants under Hindustan