

and a planning group on research and development of steel technology; and

(b) if so, the composition and functions of these groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). A Task Force on Iron and Steel to formulate proposals for a 10 year period covering Fifth and Sixth plans has been constituted by the Planning Commission. At its first meeting held on August 2, 1972, Task Force constituted, *inter-alia*, a planning Group on Research and Development in Iron and Steel Technology with Dr. V A Altekar, Director, National Metallurgical Laboratory, as Chairman and Shri J. J. Irani, Chief Metallurgist, Tata Iron and Steel Company as convener and Members drawn from the Consultants and other experts in the field. Major functions of this Planning Group include assessment of the current status of the research and development activities in the field of iron and steel and to formulate specific schemes and programmes for research and development in the Public and Private Sectors necessary to support and sustain continuing growth of the industry.

#### Issue of Licences for Mini Steel Plants

665 SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mini Steel Plants licensed till the 1st October, 1972;

(b) the names and particulars of the Companies to whom the licences have been issued; and

(c) the progress for the implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). A list indicating the schemes sanctioned under the present Indus-

trial Licensing Policy for manufacture of steel ingots/billets from scrap in electric furnaces using either conventional or/continuous casting processes, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3708/72.]

(c) Two units, which were granted CON licences were already in production. Two more units are reported to have installed electric furnaces and gone into production. The other units are taking steps to implement their projects.

#### C. I. A. activities to sour relations between India and Bangladesh

666. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:

SHRI DHARAMRAO AFZAL-PURKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Congress has expressed dissatisfaction on the activities of the C. I. A. that it was actively trying to sour the relations between Bangladesh and India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of American Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH). (a) There have been Press reports to this effect.

(b) The U. S. Government has denied these charges.

Suggestion to amend British Immigration Acts to permit Indian women residents of U. K. to bring their husbands

667. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Government have turned down the suggestion that

Immigration Acts be amended to give Indian women legally resident in Britain, the right to bring their husbands in Britain; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Indian Government thereto?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir. Some suggestion were made in the House of Lords recently that husbands of Indian women resident in Britain be admitted to rejoin. It was not accepted by the British Government on the ground that women were expected to make their homes in the country of their husbands.

(b) The Government of India can only hope that the decision of the British Government will not result in breaking up homes and causing thereby unnecessary hardships

**Indian nationals captured by Pakistan during December War**

**668. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has taken up with Pakistan the question of about 200 Indian nationals captured by Pakistan from areas occupied by them during the December war but not accounted for by them; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Pakistan Government thereon?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):** (a) and (b). We had furnished to Pakistan a list of 531 Indian nationals reportedly taken into custody from captured Indian territory. Out of this 278 individuals have so far been accounted for and repatriated to India. The question of the remaining Indian nationals is being pursued through the I.C.R.C. as well as through the Embassy of Switzerland, but no reply has been received so far.

**Escape of POWs from various Camps in the country**

**669. SHRI R. K. SINHA:  
SHRI BIRENDER SINGH  
RAO:**

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of POWs who were successful in escaping from POW camps in various parts of the country during the last six months, month-wise;

(b) the number of escaped POWs who were re-arrested during this period and the action taken against them; and

(c) whether in some camps there was a clash between POWs and camp guards during the last six months and if so, the particulars thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM):** (a) A total of 29 Prisoners of War, escaped during the last six months. Their month-wise break up is as follows:--

May, 1972	3
June, 1972	2
July, 1972	2
August, 1972	6
September, 1972	15
October, 1972	1

(b) 17 Prisoners of War were re-captured during this period and were dealt with in accordance with Geneva Convention.

(c) There were two such incidents. One occurred on 3rd October 1972 in a Prisoners of War Camp in Madhya Pradesh and the other on 13th October 1972 in a Camp in Uttar Pradesh.