

tary and Air Force officers of that country

Manufacture of Cold Rolled Grain Oriented Silicon

782. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has aware that the country continues to import cold rolled grain oriented silicon steel sheets;

(b) whether Government have employed an Expert to head Research and Development Department and whether he will be entrusted with the responsibility to set up CRGO production, and

(c) if not, the steps Government propose to take to manufacture CRGO in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The policy permits import of Cold Rolled Grain Oriented Silicon Steel Sheets as there is no production of this quality steel in the country at present

(b) and (c). An officer has been appointed as General Manager, Research and Development by Hindustan Steel Limited. He has not been entrusted with the responsibility to set up CRGO steel sheet production plant. It is however proposed to set up a CRGO steel sheet production plant as a part of Rourkela Steel Plant. Currently negotiations are in progress with the leading producers of this quality steel for technical collaboration.

Indo-U.S. Relations

783. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA:

SHRI SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or attempts made by the Governments of India

and U.S.A. to soften their relations which were hardened during the last Indo-Pak conflict; and

(b) whether there is any hope of normalisation of relations between India and U.S.A. in the near future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):

(a) There have been diplomatic contacts between the two governments both at Washington and New Delhi.

(b) It is hoped that Indo-American relations will improve now that the US elections are over.

Memorandum of demands from Executive Association of Alloy Steel Plant of Durgapur

784. SHRI R P. DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum from Executive Association of Alloy Steel Plant of Durgapur;

(b) if so, their main demands; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto, and the action taken thereon?

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

(a) to (c). There have been a number of memoranda from the Alloy Steels Executives' Association regarding the expansion of the Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur. The main demand is that Government should reconsider its decision not to increase the capacity for production of Stainless Steel as a part of the scheme of expansion. It has been explained to the Association that the product-mix for the expansion scheme has been decided on overall technological and economic considerations.