

Repatriation of Bengalis in Pakistan to Bangladesh

520. DR. RANEN SEN:
SHRI SAMAR GUHA;

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether half-a-million Bengalis have been kept virtually as prisoners in Pakistan by the Pakistan Government; and

(b) in view of our very friendly relations with the Government of Bangladesh who are demanding the release and repatriation of those Bengalis to Bangladesh, the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b). Government is aware that several lakhs of Bengalis are detained in Pakistan and are not allowed to leave that country. Government sympathises with the concern and anxiety of the people and Government of Bangladesh for these Bangladesh nationals in Pakistan. While their return to Bangladesh is primarily a matter to be sorted out between the Governments of Bangladesh and Pakistan, Government hopes that the Government of Pakistan will realise that the detention as hostages of these innocent people is against accepted canons of humanity and international behaviour.

News Report Regarding Soviet Steel for Bokaro and Korba Aluminium Plants

521. SHRI H. M. PATEL
SHRI RAM KANWAR

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a report in the 'Economic Times' of the 24th December, 1972 stating that the

Soviet Union has agreed to provide India special steel required by it for construction at the Korba Aluminium Plant and Bokaro Plant; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Contract for supply of 3000 tonnes of special steel required during the last quarter of 1972 for the fabrication of Electrolytic Pots for the Korba (MP) Aluminium Plant is being negotiated with USSR authorities. The cost is likely to be Rs 36 lakhs CIF Calcutta.

Import of 19 635 tonnes of plates and structurals of special quality steel which is not produced indigenously is required for fabrication of structure for the second steel melting shop of the Bokaro Steel Plant. The Soviet Union have agreed to make all efforts to supply the above requirements of steel between May and September, 1973. The actual cost and the detailed terms of delivery would be known only after the contract is concluded.

एशिया में अमरीकी सेना की उपस्थिति के लिए चीन का अनुरोध

522. श्री रामावतार शस्त्री :
श्री हरि किशोर सिंह :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या वियतनाम युद्ध की समाप्ति के बाद अमरीकी सरकार ने एशियाई देशों में रखी अपनी सेना की संख्या में भारी कमी करने का निश्चय किया है ;

(ख) क्या चीन की सरकार ने उसे ऐसा करने से उत्कर्ष किया है; और