

Pak. proposal for release of 10,000 Bengalis

4220. **DR. RAMEN SEN:** Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pindi proposes to send back 10,000 Bengalis to Bangladesh; and

(b) whether the P.O.Ws' issue is being discussed with Bangladesh by Government in view of the new developments?

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

(a) Government are aware of Pakistan having sent a list of nearly 15,000 persons of Bangladesh origin, mostly families of destitutes and non-officials, to the Bangladesh Government with a view to their eventual repatriation to Bangladesh.

(b) Government are constantly in touch with Bangladesh Government on this and other related issues.

Rehabilitation and assistance given to War-Widows of Rajasthan

4221. **SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:** Will the Minister of **DEFENCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether rehabilitation and provision of necessary assistance and help to the war widows in Rajasthan is far below the target fixed for this purpose, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to provide all necessary help to such widows; and

(c) the time by which all such widows will be provided with necessary work and jobs?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) to (c). The main element in the rehabilitation scheme

is the liberalised pensionary award which consists of the last pay drawn in the case of JCOs/ORs and 3/4th of the pay of the rank held at the time of death of the officers in the case of their widows. These awards have been sanctioned in all the eligible cases. In addition, free education upto the first degree level, including cost of books and stationery, uniforms, where compulsory, and boarding/lodging charges in educational institutions recognised by the Government has been allowed for the children of those killed. Entitlement Cards in respect of the eligible children those in Rajasthan have been issued for availing of these facilities.

As far as employment assistance is concerned, preferences have been extended in employment upto two dependents of the deceased servicemen including widows. Arrangements have also been made for assistance in carrying out self-employment schemes and vocational training where the widows desire to avail of such facilities. These two sets of concessions are being operated through different Ministries and Organisations of Central Government, State Governments and Public Sector Enterprises, both of the Centre and the State Governments. In Rajasthan, all the widows and dependents of those killed have been allotted 25 bighas of land each. The requests for employment/self-employment/vocational training are relatively few and are being processed.

Prices of Stainless Steel in India as compared with those in West Germany

4222. **SHRI B. S. BHURA:** Will the Minister of **STEEL AND MINES** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian stainless steel is cheaper than the West German stainless steel;

(b) whether in case less nickel is used in stainless steel, the prices can be further reduced; and