

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Official level bilateral talks are held periodically between India and France to provide an opportunity for exchange of views between the two Foreign Offices on matters of mutual interest. At the last bilateral talks held in June, 1974, both sides welcomed, among other things, their long-standing cooperation in the nuclear field.

(c) whether it has been brought to the notice of that Government and their explanation thereto, if offered?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM):** (a) to (c). Village Dara Khan is situated on the POK side of the line of control. As such, the question of taking away the population of Dara Khan village to POK side by Pak troops does not arise.

#### Import of Steel

#### Cases of Tea Plantation Labourers of Kerala

3186. **SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) the number of cases of tea plantation labourers of Kerala which are pending in the Labour Courts or at any other places, and

(b) the number of those cases which have been settled by the Union after discussing them with the plantation owners?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):** (a) and (b) The matter falls essentially in the State sphere.

#### Occupation by Pak troops of Indian area in Poonch Sector

3187. **SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the press reports where it has been reported that the entire population of Dara Khan village of Mendhar area in the Poonch sector was forcibly taken to Pakistan side by Pakistani troops;

(b) if so, how it happened and the fate of these people; and

3188. **SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL:**

**SHRI S. R. DAMANI:**

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

(a) whether the import of steel this year is being stepped up to 1.1 million tonnes as against 7.4 lakh tonnes imported last year and firm orders have already been placed; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not meeting this demand from indigenous production and also the mode of distribution of this imported steel?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA):** (a) and (b). About 1.13 million tonnes of steel are likely to be imported during the current year against orders placed.

The items being imported are those which are either not produced indigenously or are in short supply. Imports are allowed to actual users under the Import Trade Control Policy. Items imported through canalising agencies are distributed to holders of release orders.

#### Bhilai Steel Plant Facing Power Crisis

3189. **SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhilai Steel Plant will face a serious disruption owing to short power supply later this year