

September 5 1970 in Benghazi that 735 foreigners holding senior position in Libya have had their contracts terminated; this included 12 Indians. According to the latest information available with Government, 11 Indians employed by the Libyan Government, have had their contract terminated so far.

(b) The replacement of foreigners by Libyan nationals is a part of the Arabisation policies of the Libyan Government. It would not be proper for Government to take any formal measures in this regard since there is nothing to suggest that Indians in particular are being discriminated against.

**Invitation to Indians sent by  
Chinese Embassy in  
New Delhi**

4422. SHRI P. K. DEO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the invitations to Indians by the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi as a rule have to be routed through his Ministry;

(b) whether this rule is being strictly adhered to by the Chinese Embassy and if not, the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report in the *Statesman* of the 25th September, 1970 in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d). The requirement of routing invitations to non-diplomats through the Ministry of External Affairs is only designed to ensure proper security

for the Chinese Embassy. Necessary steps are taken to screen non-diplomatic invitees before entry into Chinese Embassy.

(c) Yes, Sir.

**Export of Surgical Tools to  
U.S.S.R.**

4423. SHRI N. R. LASKAR :  
SHRI SAMINATHAN :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether U. S. S. R. has placed an order for surgical tools from India; and

(b) whether any agreement has been signed and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). Yes. USSR has placed a firm order for 2,57,000 instruments of 15 types worth Rs. 23,96,100/- to be delivered during the period January-April, 1971. A contract has been signed to this effect on the 18th November, 1970. This is in addition to the order for 2,47,800 instruments of the value of Rs. 21,61,155 which has already been executed two months ahead of the schedule in the current year.

**Export of Products of Surgical  
Instruments Plant, Madras to  
Countries other than U.S.S.R.**

4424. SHRI SAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES & METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Surgical Instruments Plant at Madras has also exported its products to countries other than USSR;

(b) whether in view of the large orders obtained by this Plant, Government are considering to enlarge this plant; and

(c) if so, when it is likely to be done ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes. This unit has also exported some of its products to other countries viz. Burma, Nairobi, Syria, Lebanon, Uganda, Ceylon, Jordan, United Arab Republic, West Germany and Belgium.

(b) No. The present capacity of the plant is considered adequate to cope with the export orders.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Development of Ammunition Steel Plants

4425. SHRI MAHENDRA MAJHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to develop ammunition steel plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial implication of the proposed projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have accepted the necessity to set up an Alloy & Special Steels Plant at Kanpur in the Defence sector.

(b) The Plant will have a production capacity of about 16,400 tonnes per year of finished sections such as billets, small and medium sections, sheets, strips etc. The Plant is likely to be set up about in five years from its sanction.

(c) The expenditure on the proposed Plant will be of the order of Rs. 40 crores.

#### Crisis in Coal Industries due to Steel Scarcity

4426. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coal industry is facing a virtual steel famine;

(b) whether structurals steel-flats sheets and rounds have practically vanished from the open market and a black market in these materials has cropped up in the Jharia Coal field;

(c) whether it has been alleged that several Calcutta and Dhanbad iron and steel agencies are involved in this racket; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) : (a) There is scarcity of all categories of steel at present and all industries have been affected. The coal industry has also complained that it has been affected by the shortage.

(b) to (d). Government have no such information. There is at present no statutory price fixed for steel. Distribution procedure of iron and steel has already been streamlined and the scope for leakage to the open market has been considerably reduced. To meet the present scarcity situation, import of steel materials has been liberalised through actual User licences. Consumers can freely apply for import of certain categories of steel, which are in short supply, to the extent of 50% of their last year's consumption. Besides, large quantities of scarce items like plate, Sheets and tinplates are being imported through Hindustan Steel Ltd. for distribution to priority