

(a) whether Government are considering to devise a new distribution policy of steel in the country;

(b) if so, when the Sindhu Committee appointed by Government in this regard, is expected to submit its report; and

(c) the estimated increase in steel production during 1973-74 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) While the present distribution system has worked reasonably satisfactorily in assuring timely and planned supplies of steel to important consuming sectors, Government considered that it would be of advantage generally to review the working of the present distribution system and to suggest modifications, if any, to improve its working. Accordingly, a study group under the chairmanship of Shri S. S. Sindhu was constituted.

(b) This study group has submitted its report on March 20, 1973.

(c) The estimated increase in production of steel during 1973-74 will be about 0.8 million tonnes, over the estimated production in 1972-73.

#### **Take over of Madras Aluminium Company**

\*532. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madras Aluminium Company has been considered to be taken over by Government; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b). The proposal of the Tamil Nadu Government to take over the management,

pending nationalisation of the Madras Aluminium Company, has been forwarded to the Government of India by the State Government along with the draft Madras Aluminium Company (Taking Over of Management) Bill, 1973. The proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

#### **Investigation into activities of Black December group**

\*533. SHRI SAMAR GUHA:  
SHRI R. S. PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the violent activity of the 'Black December' against the Indian High Commission in London was an isolated incident;

(b) whether threat against the Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh and other reports of threat against Indian leaders are mere hoax or are being conducted by any organised body; and

(c) the particulars about the organisation and activities of the 'Black December'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) So far as we are aware the raid on our High Commission in London was an isolated incident.

(b) There is no information that the anonymous threats against the Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh is being conducted by any organised body.

(c) 'Black December'—this term was for the first time mentioned by an anonymous caller, who telephoned a local news agency in London that the raid on our High Commission in London was carried out by a group called 'Black December'. Intensive enquiries by the Security agencies in the U.K., produced no evidence relating to the existence of such an organisation.