

utilisation of the land for the purpose for which it has been acquired? Have Government made out any definite plan to implement the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): The land has been acquired. The plan is to have an aluminium plant there. But because of lack of resources, progress has not been made.

SHRI DHAMANKAR: The hon. Minister has said just now that progress is not being made. I would like to know specifically whether the project has been dropped altogether.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: The project has not been dropped. It is very much under consideration. But we have to see our resources position also. The land still belongs to the company.

SHRI B. V. NAIK: Of course, this is about the specific case of aluminium project at Rathgiri. I find that the payment made is fairly adequate. Whenever such lands are acquired for industrial purposes from agriculturists, at least when the Government concerned have yet to make up their mind, will the rights of the cultivators to be in possession of, and cultivate, their lands, be honoured?

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: The difficulty which the hon. Member has pointed out does take place. In certain cases, lands have been acquired and because of lack of resources, lands have not been utilised for quite some time. In certain cases we have permitted the agriculturists, we have given them on lease so that the land may not be unutilised. For example, in his own State, the land which was acquired for the steel plant was permitted to be utilised by the agriculturists from time to time. When work starts, at that time it becomes very difficult.

Exchange of Goodwill Delegations between India and Pakistan

*233. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any discussion with the Pakistan authorities regarding exchange of unofficial goodwill delegations between the two countries; and

(b) if not, whether Government of India have any such proposal under consideration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) and (b) The relations between India and Pakistan have only recently been normalised. The possibility of further improvement of relations such as through goodwill delegations will be explored in due course.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: In case Government explores the possibility of sending goodwill missions, would they consider special claims for bachelors being included in the goodwill missions?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Would the Ministry have any objection in case the hon. Speaker of the Lok Sabha takes the initiative at any time to arrange for exchange of Parliamentary delegations between the two countries?

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: We have to see the developments. We have not yet reached that stage.

Salem Steel Plant

*234 **SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:**
SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:

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

(a) whether the Special Committee set up by the Planning Commission to assess the financial viability of the Salem Steel Plant has submitted its report;