

Delay in Expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant

*1009. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:

SHRI VEKARIA:

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

(a) whether the expansion plan of Bhilai Steel Plant has been further delayed; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The expansion programme of Bhilai Steel Plant will be delayed mainly because of (i) delay in the preparation and finalisation of the Detailed Project Report as a result of delays in receipt of technical data and the need to consider the subsequent suggestion of a continuous expansion to 7 million tonnes; (ii) delay in the receipt of technical project reports for the principal units of expansion; and (iii) expected delay in getting the civil engineering assignments and completing detailed working drawings (iv) supply of equipment.

Search for Indian Personnel reported missing during recent conflict with Pakistan

*1010. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has received any information from Pakistan as to whether they have found any Indian personnel reported missing in the recent conflict with Pakistan;

(b) whether the Pakistani delegate assured the Indian representative to

make a thorough search in this regard; and

(c) if so, the progress made in this behalf and the approximate number of Indian personnel reported missing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). As the House is aware in the Joint Communiqué issued on 9th April, 1974, it has specifically been provided that further efforts should be made by either country to locate such missing military and paramilitary personnel and to afford all necessary facilities to the ICRC to locate them.

Acquisition by Pakistan of Anti-sub-Marine Warships from U.K.

*1011. SHRI DHAMANKAR:
SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan's acquisition of anti-sub-marine warships from Britain under a secret deal has upset the balance of power in the Indian sub-continent; and

(b) whether any protest has been made to U.K. for upsetting this balance and also the steps taken to fill the gap?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH):

(a) and (b). The British Government have informed us that they have authorised sale of two Whitby class frigates to Pakistan. We have conveyed our concern in the matter to the British Government on several occasions. At the same time, Government continue to watch the situation and take all appropriate steps to meet it.