

Bulk Import of Steel urged by Engineering Association of India, Calcutta .

6926. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Engineering Association of India, Calcutta has urged bulk import of steel up to 50 per cent of the requirements of 1.5 million tonnes; and

(b) if so, Government's decision thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA). (a) and (b). In a communication recently received from the Engineering Association of India, they have estimated that it would be necessary to import steel of various categories to the extent of 1.5 million tonnes every year. The Association has, *inter-alia* suggested that 50 per cent of this quantity, i.e., 750,000 tonnes (+ 10 per cent) should be imported in bulk by the canalising agencies.

While advance import of this magnitude is not considered feasible at this stage, some bulk imports in advance would be arranged by the steel bank set up by Hindustan Steel Ltd., which would enable priority users to obtain supplies ex-stock against valid import licences or release orders. Further, in the Import Trade Control Policy for 1973-74, actual users have to make direct applications to the licensing authorities by July 31, 1973, for the grant of release orders for canalised categories of steel against their specified entitlements. This will enable Hindustan Steel Ltd as the canalising agency, to arrange for all these to be imported in bulk. In effect, therefore, the total bulk import programme of steel may be of about the same order as suggested by the Association.

List of Bengali Families for exchange with Families of P.O.Ws. and Civilians detained in India

6927. SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN:
SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has finally cleared a list of 15,000 Bengali Women and children whom they will be willing to exchange for all the Bengali women and children dependents of the P.O.Ws. and civilian detainees in India;

(b) if so, whether they have submitted the list to India; and

(c) when the final exchange of such persons is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):

(a) to (c). Government are aware of Pakistan having sent a list of nearly 15,000 persons of Bangladesh origin, mostly families of destitutes and non-officials, but also including some men, to the Bangladesh Government with a view to their eventual repatriation to Bangladesh. Bangladesh Government is understood to have sought some clarifications from Pakistan through the ICRC which had communicated this list directly to Bangladesh Government. The date for the exchange of the persons mentioned in the Pakistan list with the families of Pakistani POWs and civilian internees in India has not yet been fixed.

Escape of Pak P.O.Ws. from Fatehgarh Camp, U.P.

6928. SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN:
SHRI MAHADEEPAK SINGH
SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Pakistani Prisoner of war escaped on the 13th March, 1973 from the Fatehgarh Camp;

(b) if so, the number thereof; and

(c) the steps which are taken to prevent their escape?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) and (b). One Prisoner of War escaped from the Fatehgarh Camp on the 12th March, 1973; none escaped on 13th March, 1973.

(c) Adequate security measures have been taken in the Camps to prevent any escape.