

(ब) यदि हाँ, तो, कब तक ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सरदार प्रसाद सुखदेव साहू) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

#### Indo-Bangladesh Relations

3155 SHRI PURNA SINGHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether relations of India with Bangladesh have improved and become normal after this country has conceded their demand for Farakka waters and assurance of such further concessions as would relieve the difficulties of the people of that country;

(b) whether Government propose to abolish the restriction of movements of Indian and Bangladesh peoples across the borders as it is between India and Nepal and India and Bhutan with a view to ensure furtherance of Indo-Bangladesh relations by improvement of communications between the two people;

(c) if not, what are the constraints against abolition of passport system by either Government; and

(d) does he propose to visit Bangladesh in the way he visited Pakistan in order to discuss matters of common interest keeping in view the fact that exodus of Bangladesh minorities (into India) has continued unabated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S KUNDU) (a) In pursuance of the policy of the Government of India to attach the highest priority in its foreign policy objectives, to improving relations with neighbours, the Government of India has taken some initiatives for improving relations with Bangladesh. As a result, it has

been possible, among others, to sign an Agreement with Bangladesh on the sharing of the Ganga waters at Farakka and on augmenting its flows. The Agreement is based on the principle of shared sacrifices and mutual accommodation and not on unilateral concession made by one party to the other.

This Agreement along with other measures has brought about an improvement in the climate or relations between the two countries.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A special passport and visa system is in operation between India and Bangladesh. The present climate of relations and the conditions that prevail do not warrant abolition of this system

(d) At present there is no proposal for the Minister of External Affairs to visit Bangladesh.

#### Accommodation facility to Employees of Postal Superintendent in Bolangir District Headquarters

3156 SHRI AINTHU SAHOO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no accommodation facility has been provided to the employees of the district headquarters of Postal Superintendent in Bolangir (Orissa); and

(b) if so, whether Government are proposing to construct some quarters for the postal employees in the District of Bolangir and when the construction would be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Yes, Sir. The construction of quarters is expected to be taken up by middle of next plan (1978-83).

**Export of hot rolled & cold rolled steel sheets during 1976-77**

3157. SHRI L. L. KAPOOR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 85000 tonnes of hot rolled/cold rolled sheets have been exported till January, 1978 compared to about 3000 tonnes during 1976-77;

(b) whether the price of this steel was lower by about Rs. 350/- per ton in international market compared to domestic market;

(c) if so, what are the name/names of the importing exporting firm/firms and the quantity so exported;

(d) whether the decision to export this item of steel was taken by the Ministry of Steel against the advice of SAIL international; if so, reasons therefor; and

(e) the proposed target of the Steel Ministry to export this item during 1978-79 and what is the justification for laying down such a target?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) Quantity of hot rolled coils exported during April 1977 to January 1978 was 78,238 tonnes; quantity of cold rolled sheets exported during the same period was 9,864 tonnes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir, this Ministry does not interfere with the commercial functioning of SAIL International Ltd.

(e) Targets for the export for 1978-79 for this item have not yet been fixed.

**Office building of P. and T. Department in Jahanabad in Gaya District (Bihar)**

3158. SHRI H. L. P. SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether P. & T. Department has its own office building at Jahana-bad in Gaya District (Bihar);

(b) whether the same is proposed to be repaired;

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Post Office is functioning in a rented building even though it owns a building there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKH-DEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The building has been condemned and it is proposed to construct a new building in its place. This is why the present building has been vacated and is not proposed to be repaired. The post office is, therefore, functioning in a rented building.

**Journalists victimised**

3159. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) how many journalists have been victimised or lost their jobs during last nine months;

(b) their names and designations; and

(c) what are the reasons for such action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) to (c). The matter falls essentially in the State Sphere and has been brought to the notice of the State Governments/