

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES: (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The two Aluminium Projects in the Public Sector, one at Korba (Madhya Pradesh) upto alumina stage and the other at Ratnagiri (Maharashtra), are being set up by the Bharat Aluminium Company (a Central Government Company) with the technical advice and assistance from Hungary.

Further, with a view to promoting and strengthening the cooperation between the public sector aluminium industry in India and the Hungarian aluminium Industry in respect of research, product development and applications of aluminium etc., the Hungarian authorities have offered collaboration on a long term basis. In the field of research and development, Hungary has also offered to enter into a long term agreement with Bharat Aluminium Company for making their research experience available for the development of aluminium industry in India. They have further offered to supply equipment and machinery for the Ratnagiri Aluminium Project under the frame work of Inter-Governmental Credit Agreement.

For the implementation of the Alumina Plant to be set up in Gujarat, the Hungarian Government has offered both financial and technical collaboration.

The extent to which Hungarian assistance is necessary and can be utilised in this regard is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Pakistan Propaganda regarding P.O.W.'s**

449. SHRI NAGESHWARTA RAO ; Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan raised the issue of POW's at the meeting of Islamic Conference held at Jeddah on the 29th February, 1972; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to counter the propaganda of Pakistan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) According to the communique issued at the end of the Islamic Foreign Minister's Conference at Jeddah, India and Pakistan were called upon to take

necessary steps to repatriate the Prisoners of War in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

(b) The manner in which the Government of India are discharging their obligations under the Geneva Conventions in respect of Pakistani POW's has been brought to the notice of the international community, through the International Committee of the Red Cross and through diplomatic channels.

12.00 hrs.

#### **BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

MR. SPEAKER : Before I take up the next item, I would like to inform the House that as is customary we will adjourn for half an hour at 4.30 P. M. and at 5 O'clock the Finance Minister will present the General Budget.

#### **CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

##### **REPORTED GRAVE SITUATION IN TAMIL NADU AND OTHER STATES OWING TO DISPARITIES IN SUGARCANE PRICES**

SHRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN (Cuddalore): I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :—

"The reported grave situation in Tamil Nadu and other States owing to disparities in sugarcane prices not in proportion with the price of sugar sold in the market or with the recovery of sugar assessed in the factories resulting in high price to the consumers."

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMAD) : It will be recalled that I had made a statement in this House on the 24th of November, 1971, in response to a Calling Attention Notice by Shri Narsingh Narayan Pande and other Members regarding sugarcane price. I had then informed the House of the sugarcane prices which the sugar factories then proposed to pay. Since then, the