

meetings to evolve long-term perspectives for economic, industrial, scientific, technological and commercial cooperation for mutual benefit. As regards the abolition of the special account, the details are to be mutually discussed and settled during the next round of trade talks.

Issue of Licences for fresh capacity of Aluminium Production

627 SHRI C JANARDHANAN Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to issue licences for fresh capacity of aluminium production, and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) and (b) No fresh capacity for production of aluminium metal is proposed to be licensed during the remainder of the Fourth Plan. The letter of intent issued to the Indian Aluminium Company for expansion of the Belgaum Smelter from 40,000 to 60,000 tonnes per annum may, however, be converted into a regular industrial licence.

Re-Unification of Korea

628 DR H P SHARMA Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether both North and South Korea have lately pledged to unite again, and

(b) the steps being taken to establish proper diplomatic relations with the united Korea ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) (a) A Joint Communique was issued on July 4, 1972, signed by representatives of DPRK and the ROK, which indicated the steps for improving North-South relations and unifying the divided country.

(b) The question of establishing diplomatic relations with a united Korea would arise after unification has been achieved.

Setting up of Aluminium Plant in Gujarat

629. SHRI RAM PRAKASH :
DR MAHIPATRAY MEHTA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether there is a proposal to establish an aluminium plant at Bhuj in Gujarat, and

(b) if so, the main features thereof and the total cost involved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) and (b) While there is no proposal at present to set up an Aluminium Plant at Bhuj in Gujarat, it is proposed to set up an export-oriented Alumina Plant in Gujarat.

Following enquiries from several foreign countries for purchase of Alumina from India on a long term basis, the National Industrial Development Corporation was commissioned to prepare a detailed Techno-Economic Feasibility Report for an export-oriented Alumina Plant in Gujarat. Since the cost estimates indicated in the Feasibility Report prepared in 1969 have become outdated, the cost estimates as well as the demand of both internal and external markets are at present being re-examined.

Shifting of Aluminium Plant from Koyana

630 SHRI N K SANGHI :
SHRI ROBIN SEN

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

(a) whether Government propose to change the location of the aluminium project from Koyana, and

(b) if so, the reasons for locating the project initially in Koyana and what compelling reasons have been there for a second thought on this ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) The proposed location of the Koyana Aluminium Project is Ratnagiri (Maharashtra) and there is no proposal to change it.