

and a planning group on research and development of steel technology; and

(b) if so, the composition and functions of these groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). A Task Force on Iron and Steel to formulate proposals for a 10 year period covering Fifth and Sixth plans has been constituted by the Planning Commission. At its first meeting held on August 2, 1972, Task Force constituted, *inter-alia*, a planning Group on Research and Development in Iron and Steel Technology with Dr. V. A. Altekhar, Director, National Metallurgical Laboratory, as Chairman and Shri J. J. Irani, Chief Metallurgist, Tata Iron and Steel Company as convener and Members drawn from the Consultants and other experts in the field. Major functions of this Planning Group include assessment of the current status of the research and development activities in the field of iron and steel and to formulate specific schemes and programmes for research and development in the Public and Private Sectors necessary to support and sustain continuing growth of the industry.

Issue of Licences for Mini Steel Plants

665 SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mini Steel Plants licensed till the 1st October, 1972;

(b) the names and particulars of the Companies to whom the licences have been issued; and

(c) the progress for the implementation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). A list indicating the schemes sanctioned under the present Indus-

trial Licensing Policy for manufacture of steel ingots/billets from scrap in electric furnaces using either conventional or/continuous casting processes, is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3708/72.]

(c) Two units, which were granted CON licences were already in production. Two more units are reported to have installed electric furnaces and gone into production. The other units are taking steps to implement their projects.

C. I. A. activities to sour relations between India and Bangladesh

666. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:

SHRI DHARAMRAO AFZAL-PURKAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Congress has expressed dissatisfaction on the activities of the C. I. A. that it was actively trying to sour the relations between Bangladesh and India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of American Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH). (a) There have been Press reports to this effect.

(b) The U. S. Government has denied these charges.

Suggestion to amend British Immigration Acts to permit Indian women residents of U. K. to bring their husbands

667. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Government have turned down the suggestion that