

and the expectation is that the foreign exchange thus earned will enable India not only to repay the credit but the export will yield additional foreign exchange.

Another project for which Iran has agreed to provide credit is for the production of Alumina based on Bauxite. Iran has indicated that her requirement of Alumina would be about 100,000 tons per year over a period of 10 to 15 years. Preliminary estimates indicate that this credit may come to US \$ 70 million.

An understanding has been reached for cooperation in the field of fisheries. It is contemplated that these arrangements would include the supply of fishing boats from India and the training of Iranian personnel as required. Details of this scheme are being worked out by an expert team from India which is at present in Iran.

In order that industrial capacity in India may be further expanded to meet the rapidly growing needs of Iran for various Commodities, it has been decided to set up a Joint Committee of experts with the object of identifying industries in India which are of interest to Iran and determine the best manner in which Iran can assist to expand production so that additional quantities could be made available to that country.

We have agreed to supply to Iran 3 lakh tons of cement and 65,000 tons of steel products including rails. Other items of interest to Iran, the availability of which from India will be determined shortly, include machinery and equipment, railway wagons and other engineering goods.

During my stay in Tehran, I was received in audience by His Imperial Majesty the Shahenshah and had also held discussions

with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance. In particular I would like to bring to the attention of the House the deep interest and understanding that the Shahenshah has shown towards the current problems being faced by India. But for his constant guidance, the deliberations of the Joint Commission would not have yielded the mutually beneficial and successful results. These decisions provide opportunities to both the countries to strengthen their mutual relations.

18.04 hrs.

**RE. RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH BY PAKISTAN**

SHRI S. A. KADER (Bombay—Central-South): Sir, on a point of information. Information has just now been received that Bangladesh has been recognised by Pakistan. Is the hon. Minister in a position to make a statement on that?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): Sir, I have also heard this report that Pakistan has accorded recognition to Bangladesh. If this news is correct, we welcome this, because from the very beginning we have been urging that recognition of Bangladesh by Pakistan is recognition of a reality. This recognition should now open up ways of further implementation of the Simla and Delhi agreements. We welcome this development.

18.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, February 25, 1974/Phalguna 6, 1895 (Saka).*