

3. Austerity and economic measures to reduce expenditure wherever possible.
4. Postponement of civil works which are capable of being deferred.
5. Close scrutiny of the quantum of holding of stores and spare parts with a view to dispose of surpluses not required.

Fresh intake is also regulated by strict adoption of inventory control procedure.

#### Recovering Sulphur from Steel Plants

779. Dr. P. Mondal:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have completed the study of the prospects of recovering sulphur from steel plants and Assam coal; and
- (b) if so, the details of the findings?

The Minister of Steel in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

#### M/s. Ashoka Marketing, Limited

780. Shri Madhu Limaye: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Balance Sheet for the year 1965-66 of M/s. Ashoka Marketing, Limited and the remarks passed by the Auditors on the foreign buyers' claims for the supply of jute goods;
- (b) whether permission of the Reserve Bank of India has been sought for adjusting these claims;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Auditors of this Company, M/s. Singhi and Co., have protested against this adjustment and have resigned;

(d) whether M/s. Ashoka Marketing, Ltd., have shown any credit for the claim they have on the supply of jute goods for Rs. 2,80,000 in their Balance Sheet; and

(e) whether any inquiry has been ordered into the affairs of M/s. Ashoka Marketing, Ltd.?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) Yes, Sir. The auditors for 1964-65 and 1965-66 have drawn the attention of the shareholders to the write-off of Rs. 21,77,446 and Rs. 21,57,769 respectively, for these years.

(b) In March, 1965 the Company reported to the Reserve Bank of India that payment of their bills amounting of \$1,215,859 against their exports of jute carpet backing cloth was withheld by their American buyers on the plea that the ultimate buyers had found certain goods, for which they had already made payment, defective and that they had to suffer a loss of \$733,758. The matter seems to have been referred to an arbitrator.

(c) Government have no information to that effect. M/s. H. P. Khandelwal and Co. were the auditors for the year 1964-65 and not M/s. Singhi & Co. Shri R. Singhi with some others became partners of M/s. H. P. Khandelwal & Co. after Shri Khandelwal's death. The firm was carrying on its business under the old name. From the records it appears that the Company in a general meeting appointed M/s. Gutgutia & Co., for the year 1965-66. Consequent on a change in the constitution of the firm of auditors, M/s. Gutgutia & Co., the Board of Directors of the Company appointed M/s. K. N. Gutgutia & Co. as auditors for the year in the casual vacancy caused.

(d) No, Sir. The Company appears to have filed a suit for the recovery of a claim of that amount.

(e) In April, 1963, an investigation was ordered under Section 237(b) and 249(1) (a) of the Companies Act.

There has been no progress of the investigation due to pendency of some writ petition and appeals in the Calcutta High Court.

#### Price of Steel

781. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

- whether the request of the Industry for making steel available at world prices has been considered;
- if so, the result thereof; and
- the steps taken in this direction?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (c). For Production of engineering goods for export, Government have agreed in principle to make indigenous iron and steel available at prices based on the six-monthly average of prices published in the London Metal Bulletin Steps for implementing this decision are being worked out.

#### Bokaro Steel Plant

782. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:  
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:  
Shri S. Supakar:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

- the progress made so far and the total expenditure incurred in the construction of Bokaro Steel Plant; and
- the approximate date by which it is likely to go into production?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) About 91 per cent of the earthwork involved in the site preparation and 93 per cent of the earthwork for the construction siding has been completed. About 93 per cent of the work has been completed on the construction of the Garga dam which will supply water for construction as well as drinking water for the township. Contracts for the supply of plant,

equipment and other materials from the USSR were finalised in May, 1966, and lists of equipment and materials to be procured indigenously have been determined. About 10,115 tonnes of equipment, pipes etc. have so far been received from the U.S.S.R. Working drawing are also being received for various units of the plant. Contracts for the civil engineering and the structural steelwork have been awarded by Messrs. Bokaro Steel Ltd. to Messrs. Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd. The total expenditure incurred on the project upto the end of March 1967, was Rs. 37.49 crores.

(b) The first blast furnace is likely to go into production by the beginning of 1970, and the entire plant is scheduled to be commissioned by the end of the first quarter of 1971.

#### Waste Mica

783. Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:  
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

- the quantity of mica wasted in India at present and its percentage to the total mica mined;
- whether such waste mica is being utilised in any manner; and
- if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) No precise information is available regarding the quantity of mica wasted in the country. It is, however, estimated that about 20,000 to 25,000 tonnes of mica waste or mica scrap are generated per annum while processing crude mica into mica products like mica sheets. The percentage of mica waste to the total mica mined vary widely and usually it is between 60 to 90.

(b) Yes Sir.