

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:

- (a) whether the request of the Industry for making steel available at world prices has been considered;
- (b) if so, the result thereof; and
- (c) 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:

- (a) the progress made so far and the total expenditure incurred in the construction of Bokaro Steel Plant; and
- (b) 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:

- (a) the quantity of mica wasted in India at present and its percentage to the total mica mined;
- (b) whether such waste mica is being utilised in any manner; and
- (c) 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.

(c) The main uses of waste mica at present are:

- (i) Manufacture of heat insulating mica brick for use in industrial furnaces. The process was developed at the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta and is being utilised by three private firms for commercial production.
- (ii) Use of dry ground mica in paints, oil drilling, welding electrodes, rubber and other industries in the country.
- (iii) Export in the form of scrap.
- (iv) Miscellaneous uses e.g. biotite mica for Ayurvedic medicinal purposes, in laundry, etc.

Railway Line from Amaguda to Kesinga

784. Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri G. C. Naik:
Shri K. P. Singh Deo:
Shri A. Dipa:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to construct a railway line from Amaguda to Kesinga under the DBK Railway Project; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be taken up?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) and (b). Feasibility-cum-cost studies for a broad gauge line from Amaguda to Lanjigarh Road have been carried out in the context of the integrated development of industries in the Dandakaranya region and the survey reports are under examination. Nothing definite can be said about inclusion of the project in the Fourth Plan until the scrutiny of the reports is completed by the Railway Board.

Durgapur Steel Plant

785. Shri S. Supakar: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee headed by Shri G. Pande was formed to report on the shortfall in the production of Durgapur Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the findings of the Committee?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Report of the Committee is awaited.

Import of Rubber

786. Shri Vasudevan Nair: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rubber Board has represented that licences for the import of rubber should be issued or in consultation with the Board; and

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

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shaif Qureshi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity of rubber to be imported would broadly depend on the gap between the quantity available in the country and the quantity required by the manufacturers of rubber goods in India; it is also dependent on the position of the foreign exchange resources available at the time. The Rubber Board are invariably consulted about the availability of natural rubber in the country; taking this into account and the other factors mentioned above, the Government of India decides on the quantum of the licences to be issued.

Manufacture of T.V. Sets

787. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state: