

(b) Production in Bhilai has been adversely affected by shortage of refractories and locos. Industrial relations were disturbed throughout the year in Durgapur and during the first half of the year in Rourkela. There were also certain technical/operational deficiencies at these Plants.

In TISCO, the reduction in output of saleable steel during the year 1970-71, as compared to that in 1969-70 was primarily due to reduced tonnage of purchased ingots available for rolling. The Plant had also operational troubles at the Coke Ovens and blast furnaces, non-availability of adequate quantities of purchased coke, shortage of furnace oil, etc.

The production in TISCO was affected by disturbed industrial relations.

(c) Hindustan Steel Limited expect that, subject to satisfactory industrial relations, production of steel from their steel plants at Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur in 1971-72 would exceed the actual production in 1970-71 by nearly 10 million tonnes of steel ingots. Towards this end, they are taking all necessary measures which include organisation of maintenance programmes for enhancement of equipment availability, speeding up major capital programme so as to correct existing imbalances in production facilities, procurement of raw materials, essential spares, refractories, locos and introduction of technological improvements etc. For this, a three-year rolling plan is being prepared for each plant. A close watch is being kept on the rate of production and the organisation is being geared up to attain the annual production targets.

Similar steps are also being taken by the managements of TISCO.

Industrial Relations Commission

576 SHRI B NARAYANAN Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state

(a) whether the proposal to set up Industrial Relations Commission has been finalised, and

(b) the reasons for the delay and whether Government have any alternative proposal in mind to remove the crisis of confidence between management and labour?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) (a) No, Sir

(b) Though the Standing Labour Committee had favoured the proposal in July 1970, some central organisations of workers which did not attend the Committee's meeting had expressed reservations on the subject. The question of having the most suitable dispute settlement machinery came up again before the Conference of representatives of Trade Union Organisations held on May 20-21, 1971 and the Conference of the representatives of Employers' Organisations held on May 22, 1971. This and other aspects of industrial relations policy are to be discussed further at a tripartite meeting.

World Bank Loan for Purchase of Agricultural Spraying Aircraft

577 SHRI B NARAYANAN Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any plan to utilise the agricultural spraying aircraft for protecting food-crops, as the recent World Bank Loan has enabled various companies to buy these aircraft, and

(b) the amount of loan sanctioned by the World Bank for this purpose and the number of aircraft purchased and the names of companies which bought them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The World Bank has offered a credit of 6 million dollars to be utilised for the import of 82 agricultural aircrafts. An agreement has been signed with the World Bank and the credit is still to become effective after which the funds for the import of

these agricultural aircraft will be released by the Bank.

Popularisation of Cooperative Movement

578. SHRI SAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have drawn out any scheme of action for universalizing the co-operative movement for activating its membership and for cutting down the deadwood of a defunct unit ;

(b) whether any inquiry is proposed at national level in order to foster people's faith in the movement ; and

(c) the details of the steps taken in this direction ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN UP MANTRI) (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : (a) Growth with stability being the key note of the Fourth Plan, agricultural cooperatives on the one hand and consumer cooperatives on the other occupy a central position in the strategy of cooperative development in the Country. It has been recognised that it is important for planned development to bring about the growth of cooperatives in all parts of the country and to ensure the coordinated operations of various types of cooperative organisations including activation of existing societies by increasing their resources and membership and by weeding out units which have no chances of rehabilitation or revival. The Plan includes various programmes towards this end.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration of Government at present.

(c) Does not arise.

Membership of Trade Union Organisation

579. SHRI A. P. SHARMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) which national trade union organisation has the largest membership in the

country and what is the method to ascertain this membership ; and

(b) whether Government are in a position to state the membership of the various national trade unions as on the 31st March, 1971 ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) The Indian National Trade Union Congress has the largest membership in the country in terms of the verified membership as on the 31st December 1968. The membership of trade unions affiliated to the four Central Trade Union Organisations, namely, the Indian National Trade Union Congress ; the All India Trade Union Congress ; the Hind Mazdoor Sabha ; and the United Trades Union Congress, is verified in accordance with the procedure for verification adopted in pursuance of decision taken at the 16th Session of the Indian Labour Conference held in 1958.

(b) No, Sir. The verification of membership is undertaken once in two years on calendar year basis instead of financial year.

Assessment of Unemployment Position

580. SHRI A. P. SHARMA :
SHRI SEZHIYAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unemployed persons (both educated and uneducated) in the country as on the 31st March, 1971 ;

(b) the steps Government propose to take to provide employment to these persons ; and

(c) whether they are going to be employed in phases or whether Government have chalked out some scheme for their employment, State-wise and District-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR