

would depend, *inter alia*, on the pace of research and development within the country.

**Coal and Mining Development Programmes**

\*160. SHRI DEIVEEKAN:  
SHRI CHENGALRAYA  
NAIDU:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Polish mine experts visited India in January, 1968 and held talks with the Government on collaboration in coal and other mining development programmes;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed; and

(d) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The Vice-Minister for Mines and Power, later joined by Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade, Poland accompanied by three advisers visited India in January, 1968 and had talks with the Government about the progress of the Sudamdih and Monidih mining projects and the Gidi washery project which are being implemented by the National Coal Development Corporation with Polish collaboration.

(b) Progress in the implementation of these coal projects was reviewed and ways and means discussed of overcoming some of the difficulties experienced by the Corporation in the speedy implementation of these projects.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Licence to Birlas to set up two Alloy Steel Projects**

\*161. SHRI RABI RAY:  
SHRI SHASHI RANJAN:  
SHRI K. N. PANDEY:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee on Prices, Production and Export has permitted the Birlas to proceed with their two alloy steel projects; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The projects concerned are Bihar Alloy Steels Ltd. and High Quality Steels Ltd., High Quality Steels have a licence to manufacture 19,000 tonnes of alloy steels per annum in West Bengal. The cost of the project is estimated at about Rs. 11.3 crores. Bihar Alloy Steels have a licence to manufacture 40,000 tonnes of alloy steels per annum in Bihar. The estimated cost is about Rs. 21.43 crores.

**Industrial output in West Bengal**

\*162. SHRI Y. A. PRASAD:  
SHRI SAMAR GUHA:  
SHRI BADABRATA BARUA:  
SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any improvement in the industrial output in West Bengal during the last two months; and

(b) the extent to which the industry has succeeded to tide over the difficulties created by recession?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, there has been