

each destination and does not depend on the number of Stockists at the concerned destination.

State Governments have got statutory powers to check black-marketing of cement, if any.

Cost of Production of Steel

- *336. { Shri Morarka:
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
Shri Brij Raj Singh Kotah:
Shri Sham Lal Saraf:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of production in the three steel plants has been finally ascertained; and

(b) if so, how it compares with the world prices and also with the cost of production in other plants in India?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). The costs of production of the three public sector plants are constantly under review and various ways and means of effecting reduction in costs are being pursued. The costs, as indicated in the latest Tariff Commission's Report show that the work cost at Bhilai which was the only plant producing at or near capacity by April 1962 was quite comparable with the works cost in the private sector steel plants. With the increased production recently achieved at Durgapur and Rourkela, it is expected that their works costs will also be quite comparable. Judging by sale prices of steel in the world markets, Indian costs are high.

Afghan Trade Mission's visit to Delhi

- *337. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Afghan Trade Mission visited New Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, the result of the trade discussions with them?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indo-Afghan Trade Arrangement provides for periodical reviews of its implementation. It is for purposes of review that the Afghan Trade Delegation visited New Delhi recently at our invitation.

Cement Factories

- *338. { Dr. B. M. Singhvi:
Shri R. S. Pandey:
Shri D. D. Mantri:
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) how many new cement factories are proposed to be licensed or commissioned during the remaining period of Third Five Year Plan;

(b) what are the criteria for location; and

(c) where the new factories are to be located and for what reasons?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) Thirty-two schemes for new cement factories, with a total annual installed capacity of 6,332 million metric tonnes have been licensed or approved. The number of factories that will be commissioned during the remaining period of the Third Five Year Plan will depend on the availability of foreign exchange, the capacity of indigenous manufacturers of plant and machinery and the speed with which licensees will prosecute their schemes.