

works in India. Members of this Consortium are expected to visit India in October when concrete proposals are likely to be submitted.

Steel Plant at Bonaigarh in Orissa

*113. { Shri Hem Barua:
Shri D. D. Mantri:
Shri P. K. Deo:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to locate a steel plant at Bonaigarh in Orissa;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the project; and

(c) whether any foreign collaboration has been accepted for this plant project?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy): (a) to (c). No, Sir, but two feasibility studies have been commissioned to study several regions, including Bonaigarh, for locating a few iron-making units which could later be developed into steel plants. A decision in regard to sites can be taken after the feasibility Reports are received. The reports are expected by June, 1965. It is too early now to consider foreign collaboration and other matters.

Price of Cement

*126. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri P. C. Boroach:
Shri Kolla Venkalah:

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

(a) whether Government have raised the price of cement recently;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Mishra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the F.O.R. destination price has been increased by Rs. 2 per tonne, with effect from the 1st July 1964.

(c) This increase was pursuant to increases allowed to cement producers in their ex-works prices and to increased railway freight on the transport of cement. The ex-works prices were raised in order to compensate producers for increases in such elements as pit-head price of coal, railway freight on coal and electricity rates.

Public Sector Steel Plants

*127. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

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

(a) whether the steel plants in the public sector are working to full capacities during the current year;

(b) if not, which of the plants are working below their capacities and to what extent and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to push up their working to full capacities?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy): (a) to (c). During the current year, Bhilai Steel Plant has been working above the rated capacity and Durgapur Steel Plant very near the rated capacity.

Rourkela Steel Plant has, however, worked to about 79 per cent of steel ingot capacity and 77 per cent of saleable steel capacity. This shortfall in production has been mainly due to the shutting down of blast furnace No. 1 for relining from January to July 1964 and the dislocation caused by the civil disturbances in the latter half of March 1964. Since August, 1964, all the three blast furnaces are working and production is again showing the upward trend and there is no reason to