

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Shortage of Pig Iron

*629. **Shri Subodh Hansda:** Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundries, both small and medium scale, are suffering for want of pig iron;

(b) whether this is due to the shortage of pig iron or for want of proper distribution; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) and (b). There is a shortage of graded pig iron and consequently foundries producing certain categories of castings needed by engineering industries are experiencing difficulties.

(c) Steps have been taken to augment pig iron production in the integrated steel plants by adoption of improved techniques of production. Licenses have also been granted for setting up additional units.

Sixth Steel Plant

*630. **Shri Basappa:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 817 on the 24th September, 1965 and state:

(a) whether the French entrepreneurs have since made any specific proposals for the setting up of the Sixth Steel Plant in the public sector; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Subsidies to Coal Companies

*636. **Shri Himatsingka:**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

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

(a) the outstandings on account of subsidies payable to the Coal Companies by the Coal Board during the period from November, 1964 to October, 1965, month-wise;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that collieries are experiencing great difficulty because of delays in the payment of subsidies by the Coal Board; and

(c) whether the procedure for making payments is being simplified to ensure timely payments so that the programme of production is not affected?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-5296/65.*]

(b) Yes, Sir; the Coal Board is making every effort to reduce delays in the payment of subsidies to Coal Companies and Government are trying to place additional funds at the disposal of the Board for the purpose.

(c) This is engaging the attention of the Coal Board.

Steam Locomotives

*637. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**
Shri Himatsingka:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have developed any new type of steam locomotive or improvised the existing design with a view to bringing about higher thermal efficiency and lower maintenance;