

**Steel Plants**

- \*273. {  
 Shri Goray:  
 Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:  
 Shri P. G. Deb:  
 Shri S. A. Mehdi:  
 Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
 Shri Radha Raman:  
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:  
 Shri Supakar:  
 Shri Rajendra Singh:  
 Shri Hem Barua:  
 Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:  
 Shri Morarka:  
 Shri P. K. Deo:  
 Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav:  
 Shri Ramji Varma:  
 Shri Ajit Singh Sarhad:  
 Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:  
 Shri Wodeyar:  
 Shri P. C. Borooah:  
 Shri Achar:  
 Shri Assar:  
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:  
 Shri Kalika Singh:  
 Kumari M. Vedakumari:  
 Shrimati Renuka Ray:  
 Shri Damani:  
 Shri D. C. Sharma:  
 Shri P. E. Patel:  
 Shri M. M. Gandhi:  
 Shri Kodyan:

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

(a) what steps Government have taken to maintain the plant level production in the steel plants of Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur by stepping up the supply of iron ore and coke; and

(b) what are the results?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

In a statement which I made on the 7th September, 1960 I stated the position about production of pig iron and steel in Rourkela and Bhilai. I am glad to inform the House that as a result of various steps taken by Government, the supplies of coal have

been steadily improving since then. Mechanised operation of Iron Ore mines has commenced in Rajhara and Barsua for the Bhilai and Rourkela steel works. It will take some months for full production to be reached. Until this is reached, iron ore will be obtained manually from Rajhara for Bhilai and from market mines for Rourkela to supplement supplies from the mechanised mines. It has been agreed that the necessary railway transport for the movement of raw materials to all the steel plants will be provided. Accordingly, the third coke oven battery in Bhilai and the second coke oven battery in Durgapur were lighted on the 12th October 1960 and the corresponding blast furnaces will be commissioned towards the end of December 1960.

In Rourkela, supplies for coal can no longer be regarded as the limiting factor. The main plate mill and the pipe plant are in operation but the continuous strip mill will go into production only early in 1961. Experience in other countries shows that it takes longer to pick up production on such a mill than in ordinary sheet mills. Because of this, it is proposed to determine the date of commissioning of the third blast furnace after watching for some weeks the pace at which the rolling programme gathers momentum. However, as the furnace is ready and as no difficulty is foreseen in maintaining supplies of raw materials, it can be commissioned whenever required.

**Oil Drilling Machinery**

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 Shri W rior:  
 Shri Vasudevan Nair:

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

(a) whether the Rumanian Government had submitted the prototype of oil drilling machinery for India; and

(b) so, whether Government have already placed orders?

**The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) and (b). Two