

(b) As a result of all these measures, the despatches of coal have increased from about 33.9 million tonnes during the first nine months of 1960 to about 37.6 million tonnes during the first nine months of the year 1961.

#### Price of Iron and Steel

\*708. { Shri Harish Chandra  
Mathur:  
Shri P. G. Deb:

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

(a) whether Government have considered the question of reduction in the price of steel and iron;

(b) whether we retain our position as cheapest steel producers in the world and if not, why and to what extent that position has been affected; and

(c) to what extent the old units have been affected in the matter of cost of production?

**The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Precise information about the cost of production of steel in foreign countries is not available. Prices of some categories of steel abroad are, however, lower than our prices. Prices continue fluctuating.

(c) The Tariff Commission are at present examining the cost of production of steel in the older units. Their report is awaited.

#### Gold Deposits in Kerala

\*709. **Shri Kodiyan:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 473 on the 14th August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether any steps have since been taken by Government to carry out detailed geological survey of the Wynad area in Kerala for assessing

the quality and quantity of gold deposits in the area;

(b) if so, the nature of steps taken; and

(c) when the survey is expected to be completed?

**The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) to (c). Detailed investigation of the Wynad goldfield has been included in the programme of work in the Third Five Year Plan. Field work will commence shortly on the Madras side of the Goldfield. This work is expected to be extended to the Kerala side during the second half of the III Plan period. According to the programme drawn up, the survey is to be completed during the III Plan.

#### Oil Exploration in Gujarat Region

\*710. { Shri P. C. Borooah:  
Sardar Iqbal Singh:  
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:

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

(a) the progress of oil exploration work in the Gujarat Region;

(b) the details of final or tentative assessment of the potential production of crude oil in the region;

(c) the number of wells so far drilled and found to contain (i) oil, (ii) gas; and (iii) those found dry;

(d) what is the result of tests recently reported to be carried out with the yields of the last two wells; and

(e) whether facilities and arrangements are sufficient for the refining of the oil?

**The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya):** (a) The Oil and Natural Gas Commission has carried out about 15,566 square miles of gravity/magnetic surveys, about 2400 square miles of detailed geological mapping, about 4300 square miles of regional mapping, 766 line miles of geological traverses, and 1969 line