

(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

miles of seismic surveys and drilled a number of shallow structural and deep holes.

(b) The assessment of the potential production of crude oil in the Gujarat region has not yet been made.

(c) 43 deep wells have been drilled of which 22 are oil wells, 7 are gas wells, 6 are dry and 8 are either being tested or are yet to be tested.

(d) The last well tested in Ankle-shwar has given oil and the last well in Cambay has given gas with condensate (light oil).

(e) Does not arise at this stage.

Aerial Ropeway over Rohtang Pass

*711. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any tenders have been called by the Director General of Border Roads for the construction of Aerial Ropeway over Rohtang pass,

(b) if so, whether any one of them has been accepted and when will the work begin;

(c) what will be the cost of this Ropeway; and

(d) how many months in a year will it work?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) Tenders have been called for the construction of an aerial ropeway over the Rohtang Pass.

(b) No tender has been accepted finally so far.

(c) and (d). Cannot be stated at this stage.

Water Supply Scheme for Babina and Jhansi

*712. **Dr. Sushila Nayar:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.P. Government have approached the

Central Government to undertake a joint Water Supply Scheme to meet Babina and Jhansi military and civil requirements; and

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure on the scheme and the extent to which it is likely to be more economical than a scheme undertaken independently?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme has not yet been finalised. It is, however, roughly estimated to cost Rs. 202 lakhs. At this stage, it is not known to what extent it will be more economical than a scheme undertaken independently to cater to the water requirements of the Defence Services.

Steel Production

*713. **Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production in the steel plants has gone down due to inadequate supply of coal; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). The monthly production figures do not support the statement that production has gone down. Nevertheless, Government constantly watch the problem of coal supplies to the steel plant, both in regard to quantity and quality.

Plants for Manufacture of Lubricants

*714. { **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:

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

(a) whether an agreement has been reached between Government and the Stanvac Ltd. to set up a plant for the manufacture of lubricants;