

(b) Besides the initial preferential payments, the liquidator, after obtaining the sanction of the High Court on 15-12-1961, has declared a dividend at 40 p. per rupee in favour of the depositors and other creditors. He has, upto the 21st March, 1962, issued 19925 cheques for Rs. 2,35,69,363 in favour of the depositors and 455 cheques for Rs. 1,81,491 in favour of creditors other than depositors, against the payments due to them on account of the dividend.

Iron Ore Fines

493. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 662 on the 18th August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to study the problem of utilisation of iron ore fines has since submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). The Committee has decided to submit an Interim Report as extensive laboratory experiments already started will have to be completed before the final Report can be taken up. The interim Report is being drafted.

Production in Ordnance Factories

494. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any substantial increase in the production in ordnance factories in 1961; .

(b) if so, how it compares with 1960; and

(c) whether any scheme has been chalked out to augment more production?

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Shri K. Raghuramaiah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is expected that the total value of production during 1961-62 will exceed Rs. 40 crores as against Rs. 30.36 crores for the year 1960-61.

(c) Yes, Sir. A number of projects for the indigenous manufacture of new items have been sanctioned and are in various stages of implementation. In addition a number of projects for augmentation of production are being examined by the Government. It would not be in the public interest to disclose details of these projects.

Recommendations of Pay Commission

495. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether final decision on all the recommendations of the Pay Commission report has since been taken; and

(b) if so, whether a statement will be laid on the Table?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b). Final decision has been taken on all the recommendations of the Pay Commission except those shown in the statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 41].

Inter-State Conference on Coal Mining

496. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a decision reported to have been taken by the Second Inter-State Conference on coal-mining and allied problems which was held recently at Calcutta that the State Governments should be allowed to open coal-mines either in collaboration with the National Coal Development Corporation or independently; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?