

drawn hitherto. Drilling and trenching operations are progressing steadily.

Heat Treatment Plant at Rourkela

1632. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Dhaon:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri B. P. Yadava:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that negotiations for establishing a heat treatment plant at Rourkela are under way with West Germany; and

(b) if so, the stage at which the matter stands at present?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is still under discussion.

Scarcity of Cement in Kerala

1633. Shri Maniyangadan: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute scarcity of cement in Kerala;

(b) the total quantity of cement required for and allotted to Kerala during 1961-62 and 1962-63; and

(c) the steps taken to supply adequate quantity of cement for the needs of Kerala?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) There is an overall shortage of cement in country. Besides, in order to meet large requirements of cement for Defence works taken in hand in the wake of the national emergency, Government had to impose a cut on the past level of allocations of all consumers

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(b) The following figures indicate demand and allotment of cement to Kerala under the State Quota:

Period	Demand	Allotment
1961-62	2,55,000	1,71,600
1962-63	2,75,000	1,63,875

(c) The cut imposed on the quota of Kerala State for the period January-March, 1963 was gradually restored during the subsequent quarters and for the quarter January-March, 1964, it has been fully restored. An additional quantity of 7,200 tonnes of cement has also been released during the year 1963-64.

Incentives to Coal Producers

1634. { Shri Samnani:
Shri Inder J. Malhotra:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to grant suitable incentives to coal producers; and

(b) if so, how far the grant of incentives will help in conserving the scarce reserves of superior coal and in utilising other grades of coal, of which there are large deposits in the country?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). Government are presently considering the question whether any further incentives to the coal industry are necessary. This is in the context of the need to ensure adequate production of the proper quality of coal. One of the elements in this examination will certainly be to see whether this will help in conserving the reserves of superior grades of coal which are required in the national interest. But this has nothing to do with the utilisation of lower grades of coal. The latter aspect will depend on the consumer demand for such lower grades of coal.