

There has been no progress of the investigation due to pendency of some writ petition and appeals in the Calcutta High Court.

#### Price of Steel

781. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the request of the Industry for making steel available at world prices has been considered;
- (b) if so, the result thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken in this direction?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (c). For Production of engineering goods for export, Government have agreed in principle to make indigenous iron and steel available at prices based on the six-monthly average of prices published in the London Metal Bulletin Steps for implementing this decision are being worked out.

#### Bokaro Steel Plant

782. **Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:**  
**Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:**  
**Shri S. Supakar:**

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

- (a) the progress made so far and the total expenditure incurred in the construction of Bokaro Steel Plant; and
- (b) the approximate date by which it is likely to go into production?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) About 91 per cent of the earthwork involved in the site preparation and 93 per cent of the earthwork for the construction siding has been completed. About 93 per cent of the work has been completed on the construction of the Garga dam which will supply water for construction as well as drinking water for the township. Contracts for the supply of plant,

equipment and other materials from the USSR were finalised in May, 1966, and lists of equipment and materials to be procured indigenously have been determined. About 10,115 tonnes of equipment, pipes etc. have so far been received from the U.S.S.R. Working drawing are also being received for various units of the plant. Contracts for the civil engineering and the structural steelwork have been awarded by Messrs. Bokaro Steel Ltd. to Messrs. Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd. The total expenditure incurred on the project upto the end of March 1967, was Rs. 37.49 crores.

(b) The first blast furnace is likely to go into production by the beginning of 1970, and the entire plant is scheduled to be commissioned by the end of the first quarter of 1971.

#### Waste Mica

783. **Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:**  
**Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:**

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

- (a) the quantity of mica wasted in India at present and its percentage to the total mica mined;
- (b) whether such waste mica is being utilised in any manner; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) No precise information is available regarding the quantity of mica wasted in the country. It is, however, estimated that about 20,000 to 25,000 tonnes of mica waste or mica scrap are generated per annum while processing crude mica into mica products like mica sheets. The percentage of mica waste to the total mica mined vary widely and usually it is between 60 to 90.

(b) Yes Sir.