

to be finalized shortly. The tenders for the structural fabrication and erection have been issued.

At the Bokaro Township, 600 temporary houses, 500 labour hutsments, a guest house, a 50 roomed hostel, 992 permanent houses, a temporary 50-bed hospital, a temporary office building complex, 24 B-type houses for the Soviet specialists and a 200-roomed Bokaro Hotel building have already been constructed. The construction of another 756 permanent houses is nearing completion. The work on the construction of another 2520 houses including 300 'C' type houses for Soviet specialists along with the connected public buildings and services, sanctioned in the year 1966-67, has been taken up and is in progress.

(b) The site levelling and other earth work at the plant site has practically been completed. The foundation and civil engineering construction work of the plant is expected to commence immediately after the monsoon i.e., sometimes in October, 1967. The expenditure incurred by Bokaro Steel Limited on the Bokaro project up to 31st March, 1967, was Rs. 382 million.

(c) In March, 1966, when the Soviet detailed Project Report was accepted, Bokaro Steel estimated the cost of Stage I of the complete project to be Rs. 6285 million. There has been no increase in the estimates during 1966-67, other than the increase in the rupee value of imported equipment and services on account of devaluation. On the other hand, the estimates have been reduced as a result of the Cost Reduction Study—the order of reduction will be approximately Rs. 114 million at Stage I. After devaluation, and the finalizing of the cost reduction proposals with the Soviet Organisations, the Government approved, in November, 1966, the cost estimates of Rs. 6200 million for the plant proper, excluding off-site facilities which are expected to cost about Rs. 500 million,

and for which proposals are yet to be submitted to the Government for approval.

Price of Rubber

569. Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri C. Janardhanan:
Shri P. C. Adichan:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small growers of Kerala have demanded a reasonable price for raw rubber; and

(b) if so, the action in this regard?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Ghaffar Qureshi):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tariff Commission has been asked to go into the cost of production of raw rubber and suggest a fair price therefor. Suitable action can be taken after receipt of their recommendations. The recommendations are expected by the end of May, 1967.

Companies Act

570. Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Sharda Nand:
Shri J. B. Singh:
Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:
Shri Ranjit Singh:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Companies Act so as to ban the contribution to political parties by companies;

(b) whether the recommendations

of the Santhanam Committee in this regard have been considered by Government; and

(c) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The recommendation was not found acceptable.

New Railway Lines in Orissa

**571. Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri Hem Barua:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new railway lines are proposed to be undertaken in Orissa during 1967-68;

(b) whether the State Government have suggested any new Railway line connecting Rourkela with Talcher and whether Government have finally decided about the matter; and

(c) whether Engineering and traffic surveys for the Cuttack-Paradeep Rail-Link has been completed?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) No.

(b) Yes. Past investigations have revealed that this line would not be financially justified.

(c) Not yet.

Ban on Export of Scrap Iron

**572. Shri K. E. Ganesh:
Shri Chandrajit Yadav:
Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:
Shri H. P. Chatterjee:
Shri D. K. Kunte:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:**

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

(a) whether Government propose to ban the export of scrap iron;

(b) if so, from when;

(c) the total quantity of scrap iron needed annually by the Engineering industries of the country; and

(d) the quantity of scrap iron exported in 1965-66 and 1966-67 respectively and the value thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel Mines and Metals (Shri F. C. Sethi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The information is not readily available. It may, however, be mentioned that scrap which is surplus to domestic requirements and which is generally not used in our furnaces is allowed to be exported.

(d) (i) 1965-66: 4,46,429 tonnes valued at about Rs. 550 lakhs (FOB).

(ii) 1966-67 (upto January, 1967): 4,51,514 tonnes valued at about Rs. 745 lakhs (FOB).

Birla Group of Companies

**573. Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri George Fernandes:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri S. M. Joshi:
Shri Sarjoo Fadey:**

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the study made by Mr. Hazari of the Planning Commission into the lion's share obtained by the Birla Group of Companies in the industrial licences issued after the independence;

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the various malpractices and irregularities committed by the Birla Group and the undesirable methods used by them to obtain these licences;