

ments have been requested to make suitable adjustments, in the rates of Minerals Rights Tax/Cess which have been linked with the rates of royalty, to ensure that there is no extra burden on the mining industry on account of the mineral rights tax/cess after the revision of the rates of royalty, by keeping the accrual from these taxes at the same level as they were before the issue of the Notification.

Defective HR Steel sheets manufactured by Bokaro Steel Plant

2820. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the HR Steel Sheets of 1450 mm manufactured by Bokaro Steel Plant of Steel Authority of India Limited to be used for making LPG cylinders were found defective;

(b) whether the manufacturers of LPG cylinders were put to loss;

(c) whether the Chief Controller of Explosive has set up a committee to evaluate the quality of steel sheets produced by Bokaro Steel Plant vis-a-vis those manufactured by Tata Iron and Steel Company or imported ones; if so, the findings of this Committee; and

(d) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government/Steel Authority of India Limited to ensure that the Bokaro Steel Plant produces HR Sheets of 1450 mm for LPG cylinders which are of International standards?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) During the month of March, 1987, some cylinder manufacturers brought it to the notice of SAIL that HR sheets of some heats showed excessive cracks while forming the cylinders. As a matter of abundant caution, SAIL took a decision to withdraw the sheets of 1450 mm available with the cylinder manufacturers.

(b) No specific information is available

about the loss, if any, suffered by cylinder manufacturers. Instructions were, however, issued by SAIL for reimbursement of the value of the materials returned by the cylinder manufacturers.

(c) No Committee was set up by the Chief Controller of Explosives. However, as per suggestions from the Oil Industry, an independent agency was advised to carry out examination of quality and suitability for use of the steel in question as well as cylinders manufactured out of it. The investigation revealed that some of the casts had some defects, but, these were eliminated during the manufacturing of cylinders.

(d) Technical experts of SAIL reviewed various aspects involved in the production of LPG steel sheets. Stringent process control measures have also been adopted to reduce the possibilities of failures during forming operations.

Management of Infrastructural facilities for Steel Plants

2621. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India proposes to divest itself of the responsibility of managing the huge infrastructure it created including medical, housing, educational and transport facilities at its integrated steel plant sites and handing over the management of these facilities to the State Governments or Municipal bodies concerned; and

(b) if so, what efforts have been made or proposed to be made by Government to persuade the State Governments concerned to agree to accept the management of these infrastructural facilities and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.