

ed in the Danapur Cantonment Board area. Some ancillary works relating to installation of pump, electric installation and fittings of transformer which were entrusted to the Public Health Engineering Department, Bihar for execution still remain to be completed. The Cantonment Board authorities are in constant touch with the authorities of that Department to get the work completed and commission the water tank.

[English]

Increase in Domestic Prices of Non-Ferrous Metals

11. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the domestic prices of all non-ferrous metals except aluminium in the country are about double the world prices ;

(b) if so, the main reasons thereof, and how Government propose to compete in the international market with the present high prices ; and

(c) whether because of this heavy price of steel and non-ferrous metals in the country, the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited is unable to compete in the world markets as stated by the Chairman of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in a Delhi Seminar ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) The domestic prices of non-ferrous metals in the country are considerably higher than the ruling world prices.

(b) The main reasons leading to this situation as are follows :—

(i) indigenous production often being undertaken with lower grade ores.

(ii) the input costs such as power Tariff are higher, and

(iii) the technology and equipment in use is many times not upto date, due to constraint resources.

The indigenously produced non-ferrous metals are primarily meant for the domestic market. However, when these metals are used for producing items which are exported, certain fiscal reliefs are provided in the form of duty drawback, cash, compensatory support etc.

(c) The Chairman, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited does not recollect having made any such statement in the recent past.

[Translation]

Construction of Bharat Refractories Unit at Pithoragarh, U.P.

12. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the construction work of Bharat Refractories Unit proposed to be set up in Dewalthal (Pithoragarh), Uttar Pradesh, is likely to start ;

(b) whether the site therefor has since been selected ; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken by Government to fulfil the assurance given to rehabilitate the displaced persons elsewhere ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Pithoragarh Project of Bharat Refractories Limited envisages the mining of raw magnesite and the establishment of a plant for dead burning of magnesite in a rotary kiln. The construction work for the establishment the plant is likely to start in June, 1985. The site for the of plant has been selected.

(c) The Project authorities will give due concessions to displaced persons in the matter of employment as per Government policy.