

Manufacture of "Push Button Telephone" Machine

1547. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Push Button Telephone" machine is being manufactured by Indian Telephone Industries;

(b) whether private companies also manufacture such machines;

(c) whether the machines manufactured by private companies are better with less imported components; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to discontinue manufacture of these machines?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) Yes, Sir. Push Button telephone instruments are being manufactured by the Indian Telephone Industries.

(b) and (c). Government is not aware of any private company in India having manufactured these telephone instruments. Even the recent news item stating that the P&T Department has authorised a private company to instal push button telephones in the country, is not correct.

(d) No, Sir.

Lock-out in National Iron and Steel Company, Belur

1548. SHRI SHEO SAMPAT: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that since the lock-out declared on May 13, 1976 in National Iron and Steel Company at Belur, 81 unemployed workers have died of hunger and malnutrition, two have committed suicide and two others have gone mad and lodged in the lunatic asylum; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to safeguard the life of the workers of the National Iron and Steel Company and to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) No.

(b) Information is being collected from the State Government and would be laid on the table of the Sabha when received.

M/s. Hindustan Zinc, Udaipur

1549. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Hindustan Zinc, Udaipur, have been involved in heavy losses;

(b) whether the employees and technicians of Hindustan Zinc, Udaipur have approached Government to investigate in the working of the company;

(c) whether the above company is manipulating these losses to cover up their corrupt practices, wastages of funds and inefficient policies; and

(d) whether Government will look into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) to (d). There has been a decline in the recovery of zinc metal as well as in sulphur recovery at the Debari Smelter of Hindustan Zinc Ltd. during 1976-77. The reduced recoveries of zinc and sulphur have been mainly due to the conversion of the old batch leaching purification system to a continuous system, at the same time dovetailing the latter with the additional facilities for leaching and purification in the expanded smelter at Debari. While the low recovery of zinc by some 6.4 per cent as compared to 1975-76 has affected the economics of zinc production at Debari—this