

Complaints re Delhi Telephones

1530 SHRI SAMAR GUHA Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether reports of failure of telephones, wrong connection and other irregularities regarding functioning of Delhi Telephones have recently increased,

(b) facts about such complaints made during the last six months to Delhi Telephone Department,

(c) whether any complaint register has been maintained by the Delhi Telephones, and

(d) if so, facts about various complaints lodged by various subscribers during the last 6 months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI) (a) No Sir

(b) to (d) Details are being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House

Bonus to textile workers in Bombay

1531 SHRI M KALYANASUNDARAM Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether the textile workers in Bombay Textile Mills have been on strike demanding 8.33 per cent bonus,

(b) whether the mills managed by NTC have announced 8.33 per cent bonus to its workers, and

(c) if so, what measures are being taken by the Union Government to make the other textile managements also to pay bonus to its workers?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) (a) The

matter primarily concerns the State Government, the State Government has been requested to furnish the necessary information

(b) Yes Sir

(c) Payment of bonus under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 is a statutory obligation and the defaulting employers are liable to be prosecuted by the "appropriate Government".

Effect of Nationalisation of I.I.S.Co.

1532 SHRI SHYAM SUNDAR GUPTA Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) how far the performance of the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Bumpur has improved after its nationalisation,

(b) the output of the company prior to nationalisation and after nationalisation, and

(c) whether any measures have been taken to make it a profitable company and if so, what?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK) (a) and (b) The management of the company was taken over by the Central Government in 1972, initially for a period of two years, which was extended subsequently by three years. In view of substantial investment required by the company from Government to make it a viable unit, it was decided that the ownership of the company should vest in Government. Accordingly, the shares of the company held by parties other than the State Governments and public sector institutions were acquired by legislation with effect from 17th July 1976

There has been steady improvement in the production performance

of the company since July, 1972. The capacity utilisation, in terms of saleable steel has gone up from 43.4 per cent in 1972-73 to 67.8 per cent in 1976-77. The targetted production for 1977-78 is 0.68 million tonnes of saleable steel which if achieved would represent a capacity utilisation of 85 per cent.

(c) The following measures have been taken or are proposed to be taken to improve the economic viability of the company —

(i) A plant rehabilitation scheme at a cost of Rs 81 crores is being implemented to restore the capacity of the steel plant to its rated level. About 85 per cent of the scheme has been completed,

(ii) Certain other capital schemes estimated to cost about Rs 42.5 crores over the next ten years, have also been undertaken for increased production and sustained production.

(iii) The technology used at present in the steel plant for manufacture of iron and steel is outdated. Schemes for modernisation of iron and steel-making facilities are being formulated,

(iv) It has been decided that in order to ensure a coordinated development of the company and to make for better management of its technological, production and financial problems, the shares presently held by the Central Government in this company should be transferred to Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) when it would become a subsidiary of SAIL. It is also proposed to acquire the shares held by the public financial institutions and others and to transfer them to SAIL so that IISCO, can become a Division of SAIL, after the organisation of SAIL has been re-structured

Coal shortage may hit Steel Plants

1533. SHRI RAMANAND TIWARY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards news item entitled 'Coal shortage may hit steel plants' appearing in the *Statesman* dated 19th October, 1977, and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) It is true that due to strikes in the explosives factory at Gomia and the Washeries at Dugda and Bhojudih as also power shortages, coal supplies to the steel plant during October 77 were adversely affected. To tide over the shortages the steel plant accepted higher proportion of medium/blendable coals and regulated coke oven pushings. With the strike in the Dugda and Bhojudih Washeries having since been called off and some production of explosives at Gomia resumed, the situation is showing signs of improvement. A close watch is however being maintained in consultation with the coal companies.

Steps for treatment of retarded persons

1534 SHRI RAMANAND TIWARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to news item published in the *Times of India* dated 28th September, 1977 entitled '1.80 crores in India mentally retarded';

(b) whether the said figures are correct; and