

down while it has gone up in case of arc furnaces; and

(c) if so, whether the arc furnace production has gone up because of the drop in production of the integrated steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA):

(a) The production of steel by the electric arc furnaces during 1976-77, 1977-78 and 1978-79 (excluding production of ingots by casting units as a measure of diversification permitted to them) was as follows:—

1976-77	— .995 million tonnes.
1977-78	— 1.134 million tonnes
1978-79 (upto Feb. '79)	— 1.508 million tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The production of arc furnaces has gone up mainly because of the fiscal and other measures taken by the Government for their revival, during the last 2 years.

Price of Electric Arc Furnace Ingot

10172. SHRI K LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the prevailing market price of electric arc furnace ingot per metric tonne;

(b) the price ruled for arc furnace ingot during the same periods in 1978, 1977 and 1976; and

(c) the reasons if any, for the increase in price now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA):

(a) There is no statutory control over the price of ingots produced by electric arc furnaces. The prices prevailing in the market are not being monitored and they vary from area to area and from time to time. However, according to information available, the price of ingots produced by

electric arc furnaces is presently varying between Rs. 2700 and Rs. 3000 per tonne.

(b) Definite information about the ruling prices in 1976, 1977 and 1978 is not available.

(c) Various factors are likely to have played a part in pushing up the prices such as upsurge in the demand, rising costs of inputs and higher profit taking by the electric arc furnaces.

Inauguration of Petro Chemical Complex, Baroda

10173. SHRI SHANKERSINHJI VAGHELA:

SHRI CHIMAN BHAI II. SHUKLA:

SHRI G M BANATWALLA: DR BIJOY MONDAL:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI AMAR ROY-PRADHAN.

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the press reports in the Blitz dated the 14th April, 1979 under the heading "Rs. 40 lakhs burnt to inaugurate Petro-Complex" by the Indian Petro-Chemical Corporation Ltd. which has already been commissioned long ago,

(b) if so what are the facts;

(c) whether Government propose to inquire into the matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. V. B/ U'UNA): (a) Such a press report has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) About Rs. 4.50 lakhs were spent on the inauguration of the Olefins Complex of the IPCL which has been commissioned only recently. Rs. 6.31 lakhs were also spent on an

exhibition, a symposium and publicity, not directly connected with the inaugural function.

(c) and (d) No enquiry is considered necessary because the expenditure is within reasonable limits.

Increase in Steel Price in March-April, 1979

10174. SHRI SHANKERSINHJI VAGHELA:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI H. SHUKLA:

DR. BIJOY MONDAL:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of Iron and its products have increased by Rs 100/- to 150/- per quintal during the period March and April, 1979 in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof, and

(c) what steps Government has taken that Iron products are supplied to the consumers at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA):

(a) and (b) It is presumed that the Hon'ble Members are referring to the increase in prices of pig iron. The Joint Plant Committee base prices of pig iron was increased by Rs. 100/- per tonne only with effect from 6th/7th April, '79 by way of a developmental surcharge mainly to generate additional resource for the steel industry which are essential for creating new capacities.

(c) To help the consumers to get their requirements of pig iron at Joint Plant Committee prices the facilities of despatches in rake loads has been extended to a group of consumers also subject to certain

conditions like selection of common destination, nomination of a single agency for making suitable financial arrangements and undertaking not to re-sale the material etc. Supplies have also been stepped up to small Scale Industries Corporations from whom the small scale units are expected to procure their requirements.

Surajpura Hydel Installation of the Gandak Project

10175. SHRI SHANKERSINHJI VAGHELA:

DR. BIJOY MONDAL:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Surajpura Hydel installation of the Gandak Project has started generating electricity,

(b) if so, the details of the total production of electricity; and

(c) how far India will be benefited and how much power will be used by India?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a)

The erection of all the three generating units has been completed, and testing and trial running of two of these units have been completed.

(b) The power house has an installation of 3x5 1 of bulb type generating units.

(c) The understanding under the Agreement between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India regarding this Project is that for a period of 15 years after obtaining the ownership and management of the Power House, the Nepal Government would be generating secondary power to the full extent possible and supplying it to the Government of India on payment of its actual cost of production.