

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.