

Delivery of Wheel and Axle Sets to Indian Railways by Durgapur Steel Plant

3624. PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wheel and axle sets, the Durgapur Steel Plant had promised to the Indian Railways during the year 1981-82;

(b) out of these promised wheel and axle sets, how many were delivered to the Railways; and

(c) whether indigenously manufactured wheel sets from the Durgapur Steel Plant are adequate?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (c). Durgapur Steel Plant had undertook to supply 18,132 wheel and axle sets (equivalent sets) to Indian Railways during 1981-82. The actual supplies were 13,807. The deliveries were less than the programme, and to that extent the performance of the Plant was inadequate.

Private Investment in Core Sector

3625. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDER BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit private investment in core sector specially in the field of ship building, sponge iron and power; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYNA DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b). Industries in Core Section are of importance to national economy and in-

volve sophisticated technology and heavy investment. Private investment in core sector of industries is governed by the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 and the press notes dated 2nd February, 1973 and 21st April, 1982. In accordance with these, industries in which private sector is eligible to invest include (1) construction of mechanised sailing vessels upto 10,000 DWT including fishing trawlers (2) sponge iron and (3) equipments for transmission and distribution of electricity including power and distribution transformers.

Pension to Freedom Fighters

3626. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large number of applications from freedom fighters pending with Government;

(b) if so, there number, State-wise and since when they are pending; and

(c) the action Government propose to take for their immediate disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKENTASUBBIAH): (a) to (c). A statement giving the statewide position of the applications received so far as on 31-7-82 is laid on the table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-5611/82*]. It will be seen that out of 424090 applications received, pension has already been sanctioned to over 123000 freedom fighters and their families and the claims of 122775 persons have been rejected. The total number of applications pending is 166253, which is mainly due to non-receipt of verification reports from the concerned State Governments and/or the requisite documentary evidence from the applicants. These cases will be finalised on receipt of entitlement reports from State Governments and the requisite proof of suffering from the applicants. The following steps have been taken to expedite the disposal of the pending cases: