

Demand of Non-Ferrous Metals

462. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the present demand and the demand estimated at the end of the Fourth Plan for the various non-ferrous metals ;

(b) how much of it will be met from indigenous production and how much by imports ; and

(c) the progress made on the projects taken up or decided upon already for manufacture of non-ferrous metals and the reasons for not speeding up the work on a priority basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) The present demand and the demand estimated at the end of the Fourth Plan for the various non-ferrous metals and the shortfall, which is to be met by imports, are indicated below :

Metal	Demand 1971-72	Estimates 1973-74	Likely production by 1973-74	(in tonnes)
				Short fall which is to be met by imports
1. Aluminium	233,000	274,000	250,000	—24,000
2. Copper	102,751	124,328	47,500	—76,828
3. Zinc	117,100	142,000	76,000	—66,000
4. Lead	80,520	97,430	5,400	—92,030
5. Tin	7,000	8,000	Nil	— 8,000
6. Nickel	4,500	6,000	Nil	— 6,000

(c) A note indicating the progress of the various projects is laid on the Table of the

House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-209/71*]

Refugees from East Bengal

463. SHRI DALIP SINGH :
SHRI R. S. PANDEY :
SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the number of displaced persons (Refugees) who came from East Bengal during the conflict between the people of East Bengal and Army of Pakistan ; and

(b) the policy of Government of India in regard to the settlement of those refugees ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) (SHRI R.K. KHADILKAR) : (a). Upto 24.5.1971, 35.56 lakhs of refugees have entered India from East Bengal.

(b) There is no question of settlement of these refugees from East Bengal in India ; it is expected that they will return to their homes as soon as favourable conditions are available in East Bengal.

Accumulation of Coal Stocks in West Bengal and Bihar

464. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that huge coal stocks have piled up at the pit-heads in West Bengal and Bihar in between November 1970 and April 1971 ;

(b) if so, the total amount of coal stocks which accumulated at pit-heads in these two States during this period ;

(c) the pit-heads stocks in between 1969 and 1970 ; and

(d) the reasons for this huge accumulation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Information is available up to March, 1971 only. As at the end of March, 1971, the pit-head stocks in Bengal-Bihar coalfields were estimated at 7.58 million tonnes, as against 7.06 million tonnes at the beginning of November, 1970. The pit-head stocks in the corresponding period of 1969-70 were 5.22 million tonnes and 4.151 million tonnes respectively.

(d) This was due to non-availability of adequate number of wagons for the movement of coal and poor off-take of coal by steel plants, Railways and other consumers whose coal requirements had been affected by strikes.

Unauthorised Mining by Companies near Asansol

465. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to unauthorised mining by some companies near Barachak Railway Station and Kalipahari area, near Asansol, seriously endangering the railway lines ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the steps taken by the Coal Board in this direction and the expenses involved to rectify the situation ; and

(d) the measures Government have taken or propose to take against this unauthorised mining ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) The Coal Board has come to know about unauthorised mining of coal due to which the main railway line between Asansol and Barachak stations has been threatened with danger of subsidence. The Board has also come to know of some unauthorised mining of coal in the Kalipahari area near Asansol, which has, however, not affected any railway line.

(b) (i) *Details of unauthorised mining near Barachak Railway Station.*

Inspection has revealed that in an area of about 120 m x 100 m, mostly beneath the railway acquired land, unauthorised mining was going on recently. Underground coal pillars were reduced to very small dimensions causing a dangerous condition which posed a serious risk of subsidence of the railway line.

(ii) *Details of unauthorised mining in Kalipahari Area.*

On investigation it was found that three small quarries had been opened without statutory permission from the Coal Board, in the Kusadanga seam along the Numia river, in the Ghusick mouza near Kalipahari in the Asansol sub-division.

(c) (i) *Towards unauthorised mining near Barachak Railway Station.*

The Coal Board, in consultation with the Director-General of Mines Safety took immediate action in erecting fortythree (43) B.G. sleeper cogs (wooden chocks) in the underground galleries in question in order to support the roof temporarily to guard against any possible collapse of the surface above, over which the railway line passes.