

(b) The Neyveli Lignite Corporation has been sustaining losses mainly due to non-availability of requisite quantities of lignite to operate the different consuming units at optimum levels and also owing to operational and process difficulties in the Fertilizer Plant. The following remedial steps have been taken to improve the physical and economic performance of the undertakings :

- (i) To increase the output of the lignite mine, a programme for repair and renewal of existing machinery has been drawn up. Further additional mining machinery to increase the mining capacity is also being procured.
- (ii) The existing rate for power generated by NLC has been fixed under an agreement with the Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board for a period of 4 years, ending March, 1972. The costs of power generation have gone up considerably in the last 3 years. Negotiations have been taken up with the Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board for fixing a higher rate from 1st April 1972.
- (iii) Several process difficulties have been responsible for low production in the fertilizer plant. In addition the plant requires considerable repair and overhaul. Steps have been taken to eliminate process difficulties and to rectify the deficiencies in the plant. It is expected that production in 72-73 will be significantly higher than in 71-72.
- (iv) A detailed analysis of the inventories of the NLC has been undertaken with a view to set up a scientific inventory control system for the understanding and thereby reduce capital locked up in inventories.

Charter of Demands from Unions of Durgapur Project

2561. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the Minister STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a 7 point charter of demands from the Unions

of Durgapur Projects Limited during the month of August ;

(b) if so, the main points thereof ; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) The Durgapur Projects Ltd. have three unions of their employees—(1) Durgapur Projects Workers Union ; (2) Employees Unions ; and (3) Staff and Workers Association. The first two unions did not submit any charter of demands in August, 1971 or near about that period but they agitated in the plants for meeting their various demands concerning their service conditions in July, 1971. The third union, however, submitted on 31st July, 1971 (not in August, 1971) an 8 point charter of demand (as mentioned in the Question) to the Managing Director, Durgapur Projects Ltd. with a copy to the Government of West Bengal.

(b) the main points of demand are given in statement 'A' laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See. No. LT—1203/71].

(c) After considering the various demands of the unions and holding meetings with the union representatives, the Government of West Bengal have constituted a Committee to go into the various aspects of the problem. The composition and terms of reference of the Committee are given in statement 'B' laid on Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.—1203/71.] The work of the Committee is in progress.

Prospects of Reconciliation with Mr. Phizo

2562. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether there are any prospects of reconciliation with Mr. Phizo in the changed situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : No, Sir. Phizo, being a British national, has no *locus standi* in Nagaland.