

Cost of Iron Structural and Iron Plates

1689. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the high cost of iron structural, iron plates and sheets, three or four times, more than the official rate ;

(b) whether any assessment has been made in this regard ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to stop the black marketing of the steel trade and have a proper distribution system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). It is true that the open market prices for steel (and not iron) structurals, plates and sheets are above the prices of the Producers' stockyards, but they are not three or four times more than those prices.

(c) Steps taken to reduce the high open market prices include broad measures to increase availability by increasing domestic production, increase imports substantially and regulate exports. Efforts have also been made to streamline distribution by channeling almost the entire availability to actual consumers, whose requirements have been screened.

At the same time, in order to reduce undesirable transactions by parties obtaining steel, an amendment has been made to the Iron and Steel (Control) Order in March 1971 which provides that the use of steel for any purpose other than that for which it is allotted or applied for is a violation of that Order and as such will attract the penal provisions of the Essential Commodities Act. Regional Offices of the Iron and Steel Controller have been set up *inter alia* to keep a watch over proper utilisation of steel by individual parties and undertake detailed spot checks where necessary.

Death of a Worker of Bokaro Steel Limited

1690. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mrs. Anjali Hom, a worker of Bokaro Steel Limited (Dhanbad), who

had been admitted in the Bokaro Steel Limited Hospital for delivery has not been given proper treatment and subsequently died in a Calcutta Hospital ;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the workers of Bokaro Steel Limited demanding a judicial enquiry in the matter ; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Late Mrs. Anjana Hom, an ex-employee of Bokaro Steel Ltd., was given the best possible treatment available in the Bokaro Hospital. A senior specialist from Purulia was also sent for consultation. She was transferred to a Calcutta Hospital for more specialised treatment where unfortunately she expired.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. On the complaint of a section of employees alleging that late Mrs. Hom had not been properly treated in the Company's Hospital, the management of B. S. L. set up a high level Enquiry Committee to enquire into the causes of death. The Committee has come to the conclusion that the death of Mrs. Hom did not take place either due to wrong treatment or negligence of the Doctors.

Allegation Against Managing Director of Durgapur Project Limited

1691. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :
SHRI D. B. CHANDRA
GOWDA :

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

(a) whether Government have since inquired into the allegations made against Shri S. Paul, Managing Director, Durgapur Project Limited ;

(b) if so, the conclusions arrived at ; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) A criminal case instituted against Shri S. Paul, the then Managing Director, Durgapur

Projects Ltd. is under investigation by Police.

(b) and (c). Do not arise pending receipt of the results of police case.

Visit of Japanese Mission

1692. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-GRAHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Japanese Mission recently visited India to establish high-level political contacts ;

(b) if so, the names of the members of this Mission ; and

(c) what has been the impact of this Mission on Indo-Japanese relations ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURIENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) A Japanese Parliamentary delegation headed by the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Japanese Lower House of Parliament, Mr. Sakurauchi, visited India from 19 to 25 September, 1971, on the invitation of the Government of India to study the problem of refugees from East Bengal and related questions.

(b) The names of the members of the Mission are :

- (1) Mr. Y. Sakurauchi, Leader
- (2) Mr. R. Nagata ;
- (3) Mr. M. Aoki ; and
- (4) Mr. F. Nakao.

(c) The visit was helpful in promoting greater understanding in Japan about the tremendous problem faced by India about refugees from East Bengal.

E.P.F.O. Employees' Demands

1693. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3021 on the 24th June, 1971 and state :

(a) whether the remaining demands of the employees of Provident Fund Organisation have been met ;

(b) if not, the reasons for the the abnormal delay ;

(c) whether there is a growing discon-

tent among the employees is not conceding their legitimate demand so far ;

(d) whether House Rent allowance has been increased only in the case of metropolitan cities and not for all cities ; and

(e) if so, the reason for this discrimination ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R.K. KHADILKAR) : (a) to (c). The Central Board of Trustees which administers the Employees' Provident Fund has considered the two remaining demands of the nine principal demands made by the All India Employees' Provident Fund Staff Federation. In regard to pay scales, the Board has reiterated its earlier decision of adhering to the Central Government pattern. As for the house rent allowance, the Board has recommended its enhancement, over the existing levels, at 5% at all places other than Bombay and 10% at Bombay. This recommendation of the Board is under Government's consideration.

International Labour Organisation

1694. SHRI D. P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Seminar organised by International Labour Organisation was held during November, 1971 at New Delhi ;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made at the Seminar : and

(c) the reaction of Government of India to those recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R.K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Final report has not yet been received.

Functioning of Coking Coal Mines taken over by Government

1695. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI :
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH :

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

(a) whether the coking coal mines taken over by Government has been inundated with water or choked up with highly