

up in Block-II. Test drilling is in progress in Block-III and IV. The reserve and the grade of the ore available in Block-I would be assessed after completion of analytical work.

(b) The scope for commercial exploitation will depend upon the results obtained from the test being carried out in the area.

#### Fire in Bokaro Steel Plant

2076. SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Report of the Enquiry Committee set up to inquire into the fire which broke out in December, 1971 at Bokaro Steel Plant has been received;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the officers responsible for this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Report of the Enquiry Committee set up by Bokaro Steel Ltd. to investigate into the fire that broke out on the 30th November, 1971, in Refractory Shed No. 2 in the Coke Oven Zone of the Bokaro Steel Plant has been received.

(b) The Committee as also Central Bureau of Investigation, who investigated the matter, have ruled out any possibility of sabotage as the cause of fire. The net loss estimated by the Committee on account of damage to refractories, storage shed, etc., is about Rs. 60 lakhs. The Committee has recommended the strengthening of Fire Fighting Organisation of Bokaro Steel Ltd.

(c) Departmental action is being taken against six officers of the Company in this regard. Action is also being taken against the contractor who should have removed the empty boxes and packing materials.

#### Supply of Iron Rods for Balapattam Road Bridge in Kerala

2077. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the authorities are not in a position to start the work of Balapattam road bridge in Cannanore District of Kerala due to scarcity of iron rods; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to supply enough iron rods for the construction of this bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). A request for allocation of 390 tonnes of 6 mm to 25 mm M.S. Rods from the Steel Controller's reserve was received from the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) Kerala Government during the period January—March, 1972 for construction of Balapattam road bridge in Cannanore District of Kerala. Due to inadequate availability to meet all the competing requests the demand could not be met during the period. However, efforts are being made to meet the demand to the extent possible through either Steel Priority Committee allocation or Billet Re-rollers Committee allocation during the period April—June, 1972.

#### Overstocking of Iron and Steel at Rourkela and Bhilai Steel Plants

2078. SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been overstocking of Iron and Steel at Rourkela and Bhilai Steel Plants in 1971 and even at present; and

(b) if so, to what extent (in tonnage and amount)?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN):** (a) and (b). There had been some accumulation of stock of pig iron and saleable steel at Bhilai and Rourkela Steel Plants during the last quarter of 1971. However, from January onwards, there was an improvement in the availability of wagons for movement of steel and the bulk of the accumulated stocks was moved out. As on 31-3-72, the stocks of pig iron for sale and saleable steel awaiting despatch were not considerable. In Bhilai saleable steel awaiting despatch was around 22,150 tonnes and pig iron around 24,000 tonnes. The stock of saleable steel represents 5 or 6 days production. In Rourkela, the stock of saleable steel awaiting despatch is around 23,000 tonnes representing about 12 days production.

#### Sale of wagons by Steel Plants

**2079. SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether hundreds of wagons, which can be repaired and used, are being sold by Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur Steel Plants, when there is acute shortage of wagons on the Railways ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN):** (a) No, Sir. Only those wagons which cannot be economically repaired and used are offered for sale.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Indo-Poland Trade Economic Co-operation Agreement

**2080. SHRI P. GANGADEB ;  
SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Poland have agreed to expand their economic co-operation and trade in a big way under an agreement signed between the two countries on the 14th January, 1972 ; and

(b) if so, the broad outline of the agreement ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):**

(a) During the recent visit to New Delhi of Polish Deputy Premier Jan Mitrega, letters were exchanged with him on 14th January 1972, establishing an Indo-Polish Commission for Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation. It is expected that through the functioning of this Commission, the bilateral relations between the two countries will be further strengthened, thus promoting our mutual trade and benefitting our industries and scientific institutions.

(b) It has been agreed that the Indo-Polish Joint Commission will consist of ministerial level representatives of the two Governments. It may set up such Committees at the official level as may be considered appropriate for a detailed discussion of items under consideration.

The main functions of the Commission will be to enlarge areas of cooperation in the fields of its competence. This will be done through joint studies of development programmes and elaboration of measures for collaboration in trade, industry, science and technology as well as through periodical reviews of on-going programmes of cooperation.

#### Implementation of award for Newspaper Workers

**2081. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the Award for newspaper workers has been implemented by various newspaper industries ; and