

to the owners of coking coal mines whose management was taken over by the Centre ,

(b) whether valuation has been completed , and

(c) if not, the steps taken to expedite the same and to make payment of compensation ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) (a) to (c) Under the Coking Coal Mines (Emergency Provisions) Act 1971 (No 64 of 1971) a provision has been made for the payment of an amount in cash for the vesting in the Central Government of the management of the coking coal mines. Steps are being taken for the payment of this management amount on the basis of the formula laid down in the Act. Valuation of assets and the payment of an amount for their take-over will arise only after the mines are nationalised.

#### Bokaro Steel Plant

417 SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK  
SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) the progress made by the Bokaro Steel Plant

(b) whether the work is progressing according to schedule and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) (a) In respect of the First Blast Furnace Complex most of the work has been completed. As regards Stage I of the Project 99% of earthwork excavation, 86% of concreting and RCC, 84% of underground communication, 100% of controlled earth fill, 58% of the building structural erection, 52% of technological structural erection, 30% of mechanical equipment erection, 28% of electrical equipment erection and 22% of refractories erection have been completed.

(b) By and large, the work now is proceeding according to the schedule. However, backlogs have occurred in some areas, particularly in the Hot Rolling Mills. All-out efforts are being made to make up the shortfalls and to complete the project on schedule.

(c) The main reasons for delays have been as follows:

- (1) Inadequate resources and manpower of the existing contractors in relation to the massive requirements of the jobs undertaken by them.
- (2) Delays in the supplies of fabricated structures due, mainly to shortage of industrial gases.
- (3) Unsatisfactory industrial relations between some contractors and their workers.
- (4) Withdrawal of work from certain contractors due to their persistent failure.
- (5) Delays in receipt of indigenously produced equipments or components.

#### Increase in rate of Interest of E. P. F.

418 SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA  
Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are considering to increase the present rate of interest on a member's accumulation in the Employees Provident Fund, and

(b) if so the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) (a) and (b) As recommended by the Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund Government have already approved that interest may be paid to the subscribers at the rate of 6 per cent per annum for the year 1972-73 as against the rate of 5.8 per cent per annum for the year 1971-72.

#### Malpractices by re-rollers of Steel Scrap

419 SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA  
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether any enquiry has been held