

Setting up of Heavy Engineering Corporation

445. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up another Heavy Engineering Corporation in the country to produce engineering goods which are in short supply; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SARI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Production cost of Steel in Public Sector and Private Sector Steel Plants

446. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production cost of steel in public sector is relatively higher; and

(b) if so, the difference in the cost of production of steel in public and private sector steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The works cost of production of steel ingots (excluding depreciation and interest) in the public sector and private sector plants in 1970-71 were (provisionally):—

TISCO	— Rs. 392	per tonne
IISCO	— Rs. 425	"
Bhilai	— Rs. 354	"
Rourkela L. D.	— Rs. 371	"
Open hearth	— Rs. 430	"
Durgapur	— Rs. 414	"

The average works cost of steel ingots is less in the public sector plants.

Labour Policy During Fourth Plan

447. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Labour policy during the Fourth Plan has been finalized; if so, the salient features thereof; and

(b) whether discussions have taken place with the representatives of the workers; if so, the name of those organisations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KAHDLIKAR): (a) and (b). The Labour Policy in the Fourth Plan was to be the continuation of the policy pursued earlier, subject however, to the changes that might be made on the basis of the recommendations of the National Commission on Labour. The Commission's recommendations have been discussed, at various tripartite meetings and some consensus was reached. The views of the workers' representatives on some of the major issues were also ascertained at a conference of the Trade Unions in May, 1971 and at an informal meeting convened by the Planning Commission in September, 1971. However, some of the controversial issues like the machinery for the settlement of disputes and recognition of trade unions are at present being discussed by the Indian National Trade Union Congress, All India Trade Union Congress and Hind Mazdoor Sabha, among themselves. At a meeting of Working Party of Employers and Worker held on February 7, 1972 these organisations reported some tentative agreement on the above issues. They should be sending in their agreed conclusions shortly.

Help from Hungary for setting up Aluminium Plants

448. SHRI NAGESHWARA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hungary has agreed to give help for setting up aluminium plants in the public sector; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES: (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The two Aluminium Projects in the Public Sector, one at Korba (Madhya Pradesh) upto alumina stage and the other at Ratnagiri (Maharashtra), are being set up by the Bharat Aluminium Company (a Central Government Company) with the technical advice and assistance from Hungary.

Further, with a view to promoting and strengthening the cooperation between the public sector aluminium industry in India and the Hungarian aluminium Industry in respect of research, product development and applications of aluminium etc., the Hungarian authorities have offered collaboration on a long term basis. In the field of research and development, Hungary has also offered to enter into a long term agreement with Bharat Aluminium Company for making their research experience available for the development of aluminium industry in India. They have further offered to supply equipment and machinery for the Ratnagiri Aluminium Project under the frame work of Inter-Governmental Credit Agreement.

For the implementation of the Alumina Plant to be set up in Gujarat, the Hungarian Government has offered both financial and technical collaboration.

The extent to which Hungarian assistance is necessary and can be utilised in this regard is under consideration of the Government.

Pakistan Propaganda regarding P.O.W.'s

449. SHRI NAGESHWARTA RAO ; Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan raised the issue of POW's at the meeting of Islamic Conference held at Jeddah on the 29th February, 1972; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to counter the propaganda of Pakistan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) According to the communique issued at the end of the Islamic Foreign Minister's Conference at Jeddah, India and Pakistan were called upon to take

necessary steps to repatriate the Prisoners of War in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

(b) The manner in which the Government of India are discharging their obligations under the Geneva Conventions in respect of Pakistani POW's has been brought to the notice of the international community, through the International Committee of the Red Cross and through diplomatic channels.

12.00 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER : Before I take up the next item, I would like to inform the House that as is customary we will adjourn for half an hour at 4.30 P. M. and at 5 O'clock the Finance Minister will present the General Budget.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED GRAVE SITUATION IN TAMIL NADU AND OTHER STATES OWING TO DISPARITIES IN SUGARCANE PRICES

SHRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN (Cuddalore): I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :—

"The reported grave situation in Tamil Nadu and other States owing to disparities in sugarcane prices not in proportion with the price of sugar sold in the market or with the recovery of sugar assessed in the factories resulting in high price to the consumers."

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMAD) : It will be recalled that I had made a statement in this House on the 24th of November, 1971, in response to a Calling Attention Notice by Shri Narsingh Narayan Pande and other Members regarding sugarcane price. I had then informed the House of the sugarcane prices which the sugar factories then proposed to pay. Since then, the