

**Export of Screws to Russia**

712. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI :  
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

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

(a) whether the Soviet Union propose to supply India with 5,000 tonnes of steel to be turned into screws and re-exported to that country;

(b) whether the supply of steel would be over and above the quantity that India would import from Russia under the trade plan for the current year; and

(c) whether India proposes to import 70,000 tonnes of rolled steel products from Moscow this year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). A suggestion was made by the Soviet side during the recent Trade Plan discussions that they would be prepared to purchase 5,000 tonnes of Screws from India and to supply 5,000 tonnes of Steel to India over and above the provisions made in the Trade Plan.

(c) Provision for import of 70,000 tonnes of rolled steel has been made in the Trade Plan for the year 1972.

**Supply of Steel to Small Industry Corporations for distribution to Small Scale Industries**

713. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI :  
SHRI PURSHOTTAM KAKODKAR :

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

(a) whether Government propose to provide steel to Small Industry Corporations at concessional price for distribution to small scale industries at the same price as to other steel consumers; and

(b) if so, how far this decision will help the small scale industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

**Additional Investments in Rourkela Steel Plant**

714. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI :  
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :

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

(a) whether an additional investment of Rs. 30 crores has been recommended for the Rourkela Steel Plant by the Action Committee appointed by Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). The Action Committee is of the view that there are organisational and technical deficiencies which hamper the management's effort to achieve the rated production capacity and has formulated a programme, costing approximately this amount, to eliminate these deficiencies and thereby to enable the plant to reach the rated capacity soon.

**Setting up of Iron Ore Board**

715. SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI :  
SHRI ARVIND NETAM :

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

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an Iron Ore Board on the lines of the Coffee Board, Tea Board and Coir Board; and

(b) if so, main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). Government have decided to set up an Iron Ore Board. It will be a non-statutory and non-commercial organisation for the present. The principal functions of the Board will be :—

(a) to act as the Central Policy Planning and development agency on all aspects of development of iron ore deposits in the country;

(b) to prepare perspective plans for the development and conservation of iron ore resources and to ensure effective implementation;

- (c) to ensure the optimum utilisation of the iron ore resources of the country inclusive in particular of pelletisation of fines, blue dust and of lower grades of iron ore;
- (d) to take such steps as are necessary to increase export of iron ore consistent with resources and internal needs;
- (e) to ensure balanced regional development of the iron ore deposits in the country having regard to export potential and the needs of the Indian steel industry;
- (f) to ensure the coordinated creation of infra-structure for iron ore mining and development and to liaise systematically with agencies like railways, ports, State Governments, MMTC, Financing institutions, etc.;
- (g) to act as the Centralised R & D agency for the iron ore sector as a whole inclusive of stimulating sustaining and encouraging scientific, technological and economic research; and
- (h) to discharge such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Central Government.

**Report of Altekar Committee re :  
Bharati Steel Making process**

716. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the findings of the Altekar Committee in regard to the Bharati Steel making process has been challenged by the promoters of the process; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). The Report of the Altekar Committee was made available to Shri I. K. Bharati, who had questioned the findings of the Committee without making available any additional data. Shri Bharati had, however, agreed that problems of engineering pointed out by the Committee like leakage of carbon monoxide gas, re-oxidation of hot sponge upon pushing

into the open atmosphere were quite valid. He had made a few suggestions to overcome some of the problems referred to by the Altekar Committee. The Altekar Committee examined Shri Bharati's suggestions but found that the conclusions reached by them earlier still held good.

**Labour Ministers' Conference**

717. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA :  
SHRI PURSHOTTAM KAKODKAR :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Labour Ministers' Conference was held at New Delhi in May, 1972; and

(b) if so, the main subject discussed therein ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b). The 23rd session of the State Labour Ministers' Conference, held in May, 1972, discussed mainly proposals for reordering the Industrial Relations system, with particular reference to recognition of unions, dispute settlement machinery, procedure in respect of strikes and lock-outs, unfair practices, standing orders and grievance procedure, etc.

**Minimum Bonus**

718. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Council of Trade Unions have urged the Government for the minimum bonus of 8.33 per cent; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

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

(b). Government have already constituted a Committee to review the operation of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and to consider *inter alia* the demand for an increase in the minimum bonus.