

- (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.