

**Lack of maintenance in Durgapur Steel Plant**

795. SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH :  
SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN :

With the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be please to state :

(a) whether the blast furnace coke ovens, the wheel-axle plant and the blooming and billet mill of the Durgapur Steel Plant are in bad shape due to lack of maintenance; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such lack of maintenance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) The condition of the Blast Furnace, Wheel and Axle Plant and the Blooming and Billet Mill is generally satisfactory.

There are four coke oven batteries in the steel plant. Of these, one, namely, Battery No 1 was shut down on the 13th November, 1968 for reconstruction as the usual type of repairs were found to be neither adequate nor economical. According to the latest schedule, sub-battery 1B of this battery is to be commissioned by October, 1972 and sub-battery 1A by April, 1973. Extensive repairs to Batteries Nos. 2 and 3 were carried out in 1967-69 and thereafter repairs are being carried out as and when necessary.

It has not been decided to carry out repairs based on planned inspection. Owing to frequent thermal shocks in the past, Battery No. 4 has also started showing signs of strain. Necessary repairs and replacements have been taken in hand. Considering the severe damages sustained by the batteries in the past, due particularly to frequent thermal shocks resulting from work stoppages and slow down, the current state of the batteries cannot be said to be too bad.

**Strikes and Lockouts in Mines**

796. SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of strikes and lockouts in coal and non-coal mines in the country during the period 1st January, 1971 to 15th July, 1972;

(b) the names of places where such strikes and lock-outs took place; and

(c) the role played by Government to settle the disputes and the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) and (b). The attached statement gives the available provisional information regarding the number of strikes and lockouts, statewide, in coal and non-coal mines during January, 1971 to June, 1972.

(c) The Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM) continues to make efforts in its Sphere to minimise work-stoppages through informal mediation, conciliation and adjudication or arbitration as necessary under the existing statutory machinery and voluntary arrangements. Of the 179 cases of strikes and lockouts in coal and non-coal mines during January 71 to June 1972 in which the CIRM intervened, it was successful in bringing about settlements in 109 cases and partial settlements in another 7 cases. Efforts by the CIRM to promote amicable settlements in a number of other cases are continuing.

**STATEMENT**

*Number of strikes and lock-outs statewide in coal and non-coal mines, during January 1971 to June 1972 (Provisional)*

State/Union Territory	No. of disputes	
	Strikes	Lock-outs
<i>Andhra Pradesh :</i>		
Coal . . .	63	..
Non-coal. . .	2	..
<i>Assam :</i>		
Coal . . .	..	..
Non-coal. . .	2	..
<i>Bihar :</i>		
Coal . . .	69	7
Non-coal. . .	6	..