

co-ordination of various activities has been implemented. A regular system of co-ordination meetings with the Bokaro Steel Ltd. and important suppliers of equipment is also being followed by the Ministry. The proceedings of the meetings and the progress of supplies to Bokaro Steel Ltd are also being reviewed in the Ministry for lending such assistance as may be required from time to time.

#### Extraction of Titanium Metal from Ores

1704. B. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the large resources of titanium metal available in the country, Government still depends upon the import of titanium metal ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the difficulties being faced to set up plants to extract titanium metal from the ores ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (c). There is at present no indigenous production of titanium metal and the entire requirements are met by imports which are not large. An industrial unit has recently been given a letter of intent for manufacture of titanium metal sponge along with various other items.

#### Setting up of Pig Iron Plant in Andhra Pradesh

1705. SHRI B. N. REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested Government for setting up a Pig Iron Plant at Khammam ; 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). If the

reference is to the proposal sent by the Andhra Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation to set up a Demonstration Plant at Khammam for the production of 30,000 tonnes of Sponge Iron per annum, the proposal is under consideration.

#### Unemployment and Under-employment Among Females

1706. SHRI B. V. NAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of unemployment and under-employment among the able-bodied female population of India in the working age group ; and

(b) the measure Government propose to take to provide gainful employment to this section of society ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K KHADILKAR) (a). Precise information is not available. However, according to 21st Round of the N.S.S (July 1966 to June, 1967) 0.20% of the female population in urban areas was reported to be unemployed. The latest available information in respect of unemployment among female population in rural areas relates to the 17th Round of the N.S.S. (September 1961 to July 1962) according to which 1.89% of the female population in rural areas was unemployed. Similar information regarding under-employment is not available.

(b) In addition to the employment opportunities generated as a result of implementation of various Development Programmes included in the Fourth Five Year Plan, increasing number of job opportunities (for the unemployed both male and female) are expected to be created by the special employment oriented schemes and programmes taken up since the year 1970-71.

#### Unemployment Insurance Scheme

1707. SHRI K. BALADHANDAYUTHAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No. 6607 on the 18th May, 1972 and state :