

(a) whether the present steel distribution policy of Government is not beneficial to the small scale industries, and

(b) if so, what steps Government have proposed to rectify the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) It is not correct that the present steel distribution policy is not beneficial to the Small Scale Industries.

(b) Does not arise

Delay in completion of Sudamdih and Moindih Projects of National Coal Development Corporation

2472. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether delay in the completion of Sudamdih and Moindih projects of National Coal Development Corporation has been reported; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for the slow progress of the projects are the delay in receipt of vital indigenous equipment by the projects as well as a general shortage of Iron and Steel. Some imported equipment was impounded by Pakistan during the 1965 war. Difficult Geological conditions including the presence of gas & under ground hot water have also been responsible for delay in the completion of Sudamdih project. Power supply has also been subject to heavy interruptions.

Non-aligned Nations Conference

2473. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move to have non-aligned nations summit in the near future, and

(b) if so, the subjects proposed to be discussed in the summit and the name of the country where the summit is likely to be held?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir, in 1973.

(b) The subjects to be discussed will be decided in consultations to be held to prepare for the Summit meeting. The Summit meeting is proposed to be held in Algiers.

Casual Labourers in Public Undertakings

2474. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Casual Labour working at present in Government Undertakings,

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to regularise these services;

(c) the number of casual labourers whose services have been regularised during the last one year, and

(d) the time by which the remaining persons will be regularised?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) (a) to (d) The information asked for relates to both the Central and State Government undertakings and is not readily available.

Import of Steel

2475. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA :

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

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to import steel from foreign countries;

(b), if so, the quantity and value of steel likely to be imported during the years 1972-73 and 1973-74; and

(c) the names of the countries from where the import will be made and for whom the import will be made ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) :** (a) to (c) Import of steel is made by the canalising agencies/Actual Users/Registered Exporters or their nominees/Export Houses. Imports are being allowed in accordance with the Import Policy for all categories, where the material is not adequately available indigenously. The quantum of import depends upon the demand for steel, indigenous availability of steel and the availability of foreign exchange. No precise estimate of quantity and value of the steel likely to be imported during 1972-73 and 1973-74 can be given at present. However, it is anticipated that imports will be around 10 million tonnes in 1972-73 and less in 1973-74, particularly if domestic production shows substantial increases in 1972-73.

The countries from which steel is imported depend upon the source of foreign exchange and availability of right type of material. Generally steel imports are from Japan, U.K., U.S.A., USSR, Holland, Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Belgium, France, East and West Germany.

**Change in the Procedure of indenting and Distribution of Iron and Steel**

2476. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to revise the system of indenting and distribution of Iron and Steel in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to regulate the distribution and sale of defective cuttings, re-rollable and other scraps ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) :** (a) The

revised system of indenting and distribution was notified on 7th April, 1971. There is no proposal at present to revise it further.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Joint Plant Committee regulates distribution of all such materials arising at the Plants through the Stockyards of the Main Producers.

**Construction of Salem Steel Plant**

2477 SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of the Salem Steel Plant has been going according to the schedule;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the total amount spent so far on the construction of this plant and the time by which it will start functioning and total amount likely to be invested in this project ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) :** (a) Work of preliminary site preparation has already commenced at Salem.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) So far, approximately Rs. 70 lakhs have been spent on various activities including expenditure towards land acquisition. It is expected that the Plant would be commissioned by 1977-78. The total capital outlay, presently estimated by the Consultants at about Rs. 340 crores, is under examination.

**Exploitation of Iron Ore of Malangtoli**

2478. SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to step up the exploitation of iron ore at Malangtoli; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ?