

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a). The losses suffered by Hindustan Steel Limited are attributable to a number of factors including inadequate utilisation of capacity. Major breakdowns have been a contributory factor to such inadequate utilisation.

(b) The loss of production in terms of fixed cost suffered by the Steel Plants under Hindustan Steel Limited on account of major breakdowns during the last two years is indicated below:

| Plant | Total loss of production in terms of fixed cost (Rs. in 000) | |
|----------------------|---|----------|
| | 1970-71 | 1971-72 |
| Bhilai Steel-Plant | 1,297 | 105 |
| Rourkela steel Plant | 3,543 | 83,331** |
| Durgapur steel Plant | 1,121 | 2,156 |

**This includes a loss of Rs. 82,180,000 on account of the collapse of the roof of the Steel Melting Shop in July, 1971.

(c) Proper maintenance of Plant and equipment is the function and responsibility of the management and the authorities of H.S.L. have taken and are taking a number of steps in this direction. These include Strengthening the maintenance organisations in the Plants, systematic forward planning of spares, stores, refractories etc., a 3-year plan for capital and major repairs, greater stress on preventive maintenance according to prescribed schedules and through regular inspections. Government also renders to the plants all the assistance required in this regard.

Trial of Bengali Armed Officers by Pakistan

2528. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan, which has been conveying World Opinion against any war crimes Trial in Bangladesh is itself trying

Bengali Officers serving in Pakistan Armed Forces on charges of espionage, sabotage and subversion and 80 Bengali Officers have been sentenced to various prison terms ranging from 5 to 14 years; and

(b) whether Indian Government have drawn the attention of U.N.O. in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a). Government have seen press reports to this effect.

(b). It is for the Government of Bangladesh to decide the course of action they would like to take in this matter which concerns Bangladesh nationals in Pakistan.

Increase in rate of Provident Fund Contribution

2529. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA

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

(a) whether Government are considering the question of raising the rate of Provident Fund contribution; and

(b) if so, the rate of fund to be raised and the reaction of the employees representatives thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) and (b) The National Commission on Labour has recommended that the rate of Provident Fund contribution be increased to 8 per cent where it is 6 1/4 per cent and to 10 per cent where it is 8 per cent. It is proposed to place the matter before the Indian Labour Conference/Standing Labour Committee for their views.