

Experimental Mining Project at Khetri

4173. SHRI S. N. MISRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri Nitiraj Singh, the then Minister of State of Mines and Metals inaugurated Experimental Mining Project at Khetri and if so, how many stopes were then ready; and

(b) the Mining Production schedules at that time and whether those have been maintained?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. At that time one shrinkage and one sub-level stops were ready.

(b) It was proposed to start production at the rate of 400 tonnes of ore per day and gradually to increase it to 2,000 tonnes of ore per day from January 1972. This time schedule could not be adhered to because during experimental stoping it became clear that the existing designs of the stopes will have to be substantially modified to achieve higher rate of production. Accordingly in July, 1971 a revised mining scheme was introduced according to which the lean partings of Contiguous ore lenses were to be absorbed to enable high production mining operations. It was also decided to change the existing ore drawal system for ensuring speedy haulage of ore produced and to introduce trackless mining for accelerating mine development and production operations. All the above modifications involved considerable additional work and as a result the earlier Time Schedule had to be revised.

Report of Expert Committee on Production in Khetri Complex

4174. SHRI S. N. MISRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would appointed a Committee of Experts in 1969 to go into the Production Schedules for Khetri Complex and if so, their observations and recommendations; and

(b) whether Government would place a copy of this Report on the Table?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The main observations/recommendations of the Expert Committee were as follows:—

- (1) Exploration for delineation of ore bodies at the lower levels of the mine should be progressively increased to meet the production commitments.
- (2) Proper attention should be given for the ore pass system and ore drawal techniques.
- (3) Combination of shrinkage and sub-level stoping may be developed and the number of stopes may be increased.
- (4) Technical personnel may be deputed for training in countries like Zambia, Australia, etc., for training.
- (5) Due regard should be paid to preventive maintenance and also a system of incentive bonus may be introduced etc.

One of the Members of the Expert Committee has been appointed as a General Manager of Khetri Copper Project.

(b) The main observations/recommendations contained in the report have already been stated in part (a) of the question.

Cost Estimates and schedules at Mines of Indian Copper Corporation

4175. SHRI S. N. MISRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the various Cost Estimates sanctioned by the Government from time to time;

(b) the time Schedules given with the Estimates;

(c) the Movable Reserves available to suit these Schedules and whether these are in consonance with the accepted international practices; and

(d) the practice at the Mines of the Indian Copper Corporation prior to nationalisation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) No Cost Estimates have been sanctioned by the Government so far for the Indian Copper Complex at Ghatsila after nationalisation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The practice at mines of Indian Copper Corporation prior to nationalisation was that the Cost Estimates of the new schemes were approved by the Board of Directors of the Indian Copper Corporation Limited.

Representation from Embassy Employees about difficulties created by re-valuation and Devaluation

4177. **SHRI S. N. MISRA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees in the Offices of the various Indian Embassies are paid salaries and allowances on the same scale as prevailing in the places of posting or according to any uniform fixed scales;

(b) whether such payments are being made considering the altered value and devalued currency ratios of the country; and

(c) whether any representation has been received about difficulties created by re-valuation and devaluation of the currencies, from employees of any Embassy etc., and if so, from which area and the difficulties narrated therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Employees in Indian Missions abroad are paid foreign allowance on the basis of the local cost of living. The rates of foreign allowance are revised on the basis of the recommendations of the Foreign Service Inspectors which take into account the prevailing rate of exchange, local costs and other factors such as expenditure which an officer while serving abroad has necessarily to incur either at home or abroad over and above that which an officer of corresponding category serving in India is expected to bear.

(b) Rates of foreign allowance are revised whenever a revision is warranted by variation in exchange rate of the country concerned and other factors which affect local costs.

(c) No representation from individual employees of Indian Missions abroad has been received. Indian Missions in East Asia and West Europe where local currencies were revalued have represented for revision of rates of foreign allowance.

Staff in the Engineering Projects India Limited

4178. **SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM:** Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 2587 on the 8th March, 1973, and state:

(a) whether the Engineering Projects India Limited was started very recently with less number of staff;

(b) if so, the time of start of the Corporation and the total staff working with the Corporation as on the 1st March, 1973; and

(c) the number of branch offices working at various places of India with individual staff strength at each centre?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI SIDDESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.