

**Quantity of Steel Ingot produced in Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants during 1969, 1970 and 1971**

5071. SHRI ROBIN SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the quantity of Steel ingot produced in the years 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72 in Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): The following are the figures of production of steel ingots in Durgapur Steel Plant and Rourkela Steel Plant:

Steel Ingots (In thousand tonnes)

Year	Durgapur Steel Plant	Rourkela Steel Plant
1969-70	818	1104
1970-71	634	1038
1971-72	700	823

**Corporate Plan to produce 1.4 MT. of Steel in Durgapur by 1977-78**

5072. SHRI ROBIN SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Corporate Plan has been prepared for Durgapur Steel Plant by H.S. L. wherein it is stated that Durgapur can produce 1.4 MT of steel only in the year 1977-78; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. A corporate plan has been drawn up by the Plant Authorities for the production of 1.4 million tonnes of ingots by Durgapur Steel Plant in 1975-76.

**Distribution of Steel and Pig Iron in Eastern Region to Small and Medium Industries**

5073. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the last six months due to a complete chaos in the distribution of steel and pig iron quota in the Eastern region including West Bengal, the small and medium industries are facing serious difficulties to keep their plants running;

(b) what is the reaction of Government in this matter; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to bring an effective improvement in the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) to (c). As regards steel, despatches from the mam steel plants are regulated by the Steel Priority Committee, after taking into account the end uses for which the steel is required, availability in a particular quarter and the competing demands. Government have no information regarding dislocation of supply through the S.P.C. in meeting the requirement of the small and medium industries in the Eastern region including West Bengal.

As regards pig iron, a situation of shortage had recently developed, due mainly to transport difficulties and shortage of power. The position of supply has already started improving. Supply of pig iron is at present being made to the foundries on the basis of off-take during the period October, 1972 to March, 1973. An equitable system of distribution of pig iron based on capacities of foundries is also being drawn up.

Steps taken to bridge the gap between demand and supply of steel include efforts to increase production by technological improvements; by better industrial relations; improved maintenance of plant and machinery, regulation of exports; liberalisation of imports, particularly in respect

of categories in short supply; and setting up of electric furnaces to supplement availability of steel from the main producers.

**Erosion of Real Wages of Industrial Employees due to Price Rise**

5074. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the real wages of the industrial employees all over the country have eroded to an abnormal extent due to unprecedented rise in price of all commodities during last one year; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to check the erosion and the results achieved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) The index number of real earnings of factory workers (Base 1961—100) stood at 101 points for 1970. The provisional figure for 1971 is also 101. As regards mine workers, the index number of real earnings (Base 1961—100) went up from 116 points in 1970 to 117 points in 1971. Figures for 1972 are not available.

(b) Steps continue to be taken by Government to check rise in prices of essential commodities. The system of variable dearness allowance is in force in a number of major industries and gives relief to workers whenever the cost of living goes up.

**Proposal by H.S.E.U. Durgapur regarding Product Mix for expansion of Plant**

5075. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the reasons of not accepting the proposal given by the H.S.E.U., Durgapur for the expansion of the Plant to 2.5 M.T. with some profitable product mix rectifying the existing trouble?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): The expansion proposed by the Union is to 3.5 million tonnes. The possibility of expansion of the capacity of the plant is separately under examination.

**Commissioning of demolished No. 1 Battery of Durgapur Steel Plant**

5076. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Battery No. 1 of Durgapur Steel Plant was demolished three years back for reconstruction but has not yet been put into commission; and

(b) if so, what is the data fixed in the tender document to finalise the Job?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b). The battery was taken down for re-building in November, 1968. According to the contract terms, the re-building was to be completed by the 15th April, 1971. The job has not been completed owing to a number of factors, one of the main ones being frequent strikes and work-stoppages among the labour employed by the different contractors on the job. The re-building is now almost over. One half of the battery began heating up on the 18th May, 1973. The heating up is almost complete and the half battery is ready to be charged in a few days. However, the employees of the Coke Oven Department are threatening that they will not work on the battery unless a large number of their demands are conceded. The Unions have rejected the offers made by the management, and are threatening to go on strike.

**M-mo by Hindustan Steel Employees Union, Durgapur to the Joint Negotiating Committee of Steel Industry**

5077. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state: