

Coal Mines not taken over by Government

749. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of coal mines in the country which have not yet been taken over by Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) All coal mines except the ten captive mines of two steel plants, namely, Tata Iron and Steel Company and Indian Iron and Steel Company have been nationalised.

(b) Does not arise.

Demand and availability of Zinc

750. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a gap between the demand and availability of zinc in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to fill the gap?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES. (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b). The current (1973-74) demand for zinc is estimated at about 1,31,000 tonnes as against the anticipated production of about 24,000 tonnes from the two existing smelters in the country which have a total licensed capacity of 38,000 tonnes per annum. The following steps have been taken to step up the production capacity for zinc:—

(i) The existing Debari Zinc Smelter in the public sector is being expanded from 18,000

to 45,000 tonnes per annum and this expansion is likely to be achieved by 1976-77.

(ii) A new Zinc Smelter with a capacity of 30,000 tonnes is being set up at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) in the public sector which is likely to be commissioned by 1976-77.

(iii) M/S. Cominco Binani Zinc Ltd. have been granted a 'Letter of Intent' for expansion of their Binanipuram Zinc Smelter in the private sector from 20,000 to 40,000 tonnes per annum. The expansion is likely to materialise by 1977-78.

(iv) It is proposed to set up a new Zinc Smelter in the public sector with a capacity of 1,00,000 tonnes (in two stages of 50,000 tonnes each) per annum in Rajasthan based on the ore deposits in Rajpura-Dariba and other deposits in the State.

Financial help to Tamil Nadu for settlement of repatriates from Sri Lanka

751. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Government have urged the Centre for financial help for the early settlement of the repatriates from Sri Lanka; and

(b) if so, the reactions of Central Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) and (b). There has been no recent communication from the Tamil Nadu Government in regard to financial help in general terms for the settlement of

repatriates from Sri Lanka. From the very beginning, the Government of India have accepted the responsibility of providing the funds required for the relief and rehabilitation of the repatriates coming to India under the Indo-Ceylon Agreement, 1964. Loans and Grants are sanctioned for specific schemes as well as for rehabilitation in accordance with a certain approved pattern in various fields. An amount of Rs. 380.76 lakhs has been released so far to the Government of Tamil Nadu in accordance with the arrangement mentioned above.

A statement showing the approved schemes in Tamil Nadu is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5705/73.]

Repatriation of POWs during September-October, 1973

752. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA:
SHRI G. P. YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Pakistani prisoners of war repatriated from India during the months of September and October, 1973; and

(b) the approximate expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a). 77 Prisoners of War were repatriated during September, 1973 and 6169 during October, 1973.

(b) As per compiled actuals, the expenditure incurred on the Pakistani Prisoners of War including Civilians Under Protective Custody upto 30th September, 1973 is approximately. Rs. 26,86,49,000.00. Expenditure incurred on those repatriated during September and October,

1973 has not been compiled separately.

Explosion in Rourkela Steel Plant

754. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether there has been any explosion in the recent past in Rourkela Steel Plant and whether there was a second explosion in the same place a few days later and, if so, the result of the enquiry held into the incidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): There have been no such explosions in the recent past.

Land Transfer Agreement between Orissa Government and Rourkela Steel Plant

755. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether the agreement about the transfer of land from Government of Orissa to Rourkela Steel Plant has been finalised and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): No, Sir. The terms are yet to be settled.

Deputationists from Orissa Government to Rourkela Steel Plant

756. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the number of deputationists from Orissa Government to Rourkela Steel Plant as compared to deputationists from other State Governments to Bokaro, Bhilai and Durgapur Steel Plants?