

Representation to P.M. from Shareholders Association of Coal Mines

9025. SHRI D. P. JADEJA:
SHRI VEKARIA:

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

(a) whether in the month of May, 1973 when the coal mines were nationalised the Prime Minister received any representation from the Shareholder's Association of Coal Mines;

(b) if so, the date when it was received and the contents thereof;

(c) how would the shareholders of the public companies mentioned in the memorandum be affected as per the contents; and

(d) how much a shareholder would get against its share of Rs. 100/- and Rs. 10/- each?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, A representation was received from the shareholder's Association some times in May-June, 1973 expressing apprehensions of small investors and middle-class share-holders of coal mines.

(c) and (d). It is difficult to give this information.

Full capacity utilisation of Steel Plants

9026. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA:
SHRIMATI ROZA DESH-
PANDE:

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

(a) the steps taken to use fully the installed capacity in the steel plants; and

(b) how much steel could be produced if the fuller utilisation of the steel plants is done?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a). The utilisation of installed capacity in integrated Steel Plants depends upon a number of factors, both internal and external. Within the limitations imposed by external factors, the management of Hindustan Steel Limited have taken, and are taking, a number of measures to step up production from the public sector steel plants at Bhilai, Durgapur and Rourkela. These include: specialised repairs of coke ovens, use of alternative fuels to supplement gas availability, oil firing in certain furnaces to augment fuel resources, improved maintenance aimed at better equipment availability, speeding up of capital programmes required to correct existing imbalances in production facilities and planned procurement of spares, refractories and other essential materials. To meet the shortage of coke and coke oven gas, one additional coke oven battery at Bhilai and one half coke oven battery each at Rourkela and Durgapur have been sanctioned. The Action Committee appointed by the Planning Commission which examined the working of Rourkela and Bhilai Steel Plants sometime back has recommended a number of measures for achieving near rated capacity levels of production and these recommendations have been taken up for implementation. The Committee's report in respect of Durgapur Steel Plant has been received recently and is presently under examination. Steel Authority of India Limited is also giving the plants all the support that is required and is making every effort to ensure a gradual build up of production in these plants in the coming years. Close liaison has been established, and is being maintained, with the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, D.V.C. authorities, the State Governments concerned and the Rail-

ways in regard to the supply of power and rail movement of essential inputs and finished goods.

As regards IISCO, a plant rehabilitation programme has been drawn up at an estimated cost of Rs. 43 crores and it is under implementation.

IISCO have also drawn up a phased programme of rebuilding of old coke oven batteries and replacement of old boilers and of installation of facilities for increased production at the collieries. This programme is under implementation.

(b) The total capacity for production of saleable steel of the five main steel plants is 6.729 million tonnes. If the production from these plants is raised to 90 per cent of the installed capacity, the total production of saleable steel would come to 6.056 million tonnes.

Purchase of New Drilling Machines

9027. SHRI MD. JAMILUR-RAHMAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether within a span of two years the Chief of Geology asked for purchase of about 100 new drilling machines; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Imported Drilling Machines with N.C.D.C. Store lying Idle

9028. SHRI MD. JAMILUR-RAHMAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of imported Drilling Machines (10-15) are lying idle in the Barkakana Centre stores of N.C.D.C. with their complete new set of spares; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Disposal of Drilling Machines owned by N.C.D.C.

9029. SHRI MD. JAMILUR-RAHMAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether N.C.D.C. was owning about 115 drilling machines till the beginning of 1970 and just after that a large number of machines were either sold out or auctioned for scrap value; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

N.C.D.C. purchase of Drilling Machines from Orissa Mining Corporation

9030. SHRI MD. JAMILUR-RAHMAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether N.C.D.C. has purchased Drilling Machines from Orissa Mining Corporation; and

(b) if so, the cost and other facts thereof?