

**Alleged irregularities and lapses in
HISCO**

*567. SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD
MANDAL:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the complaints about irregularities and lapses in HISCO; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND
MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under examination.

**Heavy Engineering Corporation,
Ranchi**

*568. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the
Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre is making efforts to ensure that the Heavy Engineering Corporation at Ranchi break even during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the target for each month, to enable correct evaluation of performance?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY
INDUSTRY (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a)
Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8340/74].

**Discussion between India and
Indonesia for Cultural Exchange**

3880. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any discussion between the Governments of India and Indonesia recently on cultural exchange between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the concrete programmes chalked for the year 1974-75?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At the 5th annual Indo-Indonesia Bilateral Talks held at Jakarta in early August 1974, a number of suggestions for promoting cultural exchanges were considered. The Indonesian side stated that as far as they were concerned, they did not work on the basis of annual programmes but on that of concrete programmes.

**Decline in Production of Saleable
Steel**

3881. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of saleable steel went down in 1973-74;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are making efforts to reach the target; and

(d) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES
(SHRI SUBODH HANEDA): (a) Yes.

Sir. The aggregate production of saleable steel from the five major steel plants in 1973-74 was 4353 million tonnes as against the production of 4.793 million tonnes in 1972-73.

(b) The production in 1973-74 was affected adversely mainly on account of:—

- (i) Severe power cuts and power interruption, especially in the period April to mid-November, 1973, directly affecting production in all the plants except Bhilai.
- (ii) Inadequate availability of coal, again largely due to power cuts and power interruptions during this period which effected the entire Jharia Coal-fields and led to curtailment in the operation of coal washeries and of coal mines which, in turn, affected steel production in all the plants.
- (iii) Intermittent slow down and industrial unrest in Railways, especially in the South Eastern and Eastern Railways, in August, 1973 and thereafter from late November, 1973 onwards, affecting movement of coal and other raw materials and of finished products and necessitating the imposition of drastic cuts on production in keeping with the minimal flow of raw materials.

(c) and (d). The targets of production for 1974-75 which envisage higher production than that achieved in 1973-74 have been drawn up in consultation with all the appropriate agencies after making an assessment of the requirements and possible supply and availability of power, other essential inputs, rail transport etc. Close and constant liaison is being maintained with these agencies to ensure that production does not suffer on account of shortage in the supply or availability of these requirements.

Japanese Firm to Mine Coal

3882. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed a Japanese firm to mine coal at Telchar in Orissa using a new technology of production;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) whether similar technology is to be employed in other coal mines also; and

(d) if so, whether Government intend to buy this technology for use all over India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Big Power Pressure in Indian Ocean Sought by Pakistan

3883. SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is seeking Big-Power presence in the Indian Ocean as a balancing factor against other States in the region; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Government have seen a press commentary on a Pakistani official spokesman's statement to this effect.

(b) Such a move would contradict the U.N. Resolution declaring the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, to which India and the overwhelming majority of the littoral States have subscribed.