

Sargipalli Lead Project

1038. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-GRAHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the progress made in the work of Sargipalli Lead Project in Orissa?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): The Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Udaipur, a public sector undertaking, who have been entrusted with the work of development of the lead ore deposits in Sargipalli (Orissa), have prepared a project report for development of the mine and establishment of beneficiation facilities. The report is presently under consideration of the Government.

Accumulation of "Blue Dust" in Bailadila Iron Ore Complex

1039. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of "blue dust" has accumulated in Bailadila iron ore complex and there is no buyer for it; and

(b) whether Government propose to set up any sponge iron plant there so that the "blue dust" could be utilised economically?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) About 7 million tonnes of iron ore fines, generated during the course of mechanised mining, have accumulated at Bailadila. Sale of raw fines/blue dust from Bailadila is not economically viable.

(b) Proposals for economic utilisation of Bailadila fines/blue dust through pelletisation are under consideration.

Allotment of Chemical/Chemical By Products to Small Scale Industrial Units

1040. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether the Hindustan Steel Ltd. (Fertilizer & Chemical Division) has formulated any scheme to give priority for allotment of chemicals/chemical by-products to the small scale industrial units, to be run by the educated unemployed under Governments crash scheme to rehabilitate educated unemployed on priority basis?

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

Distribution Policy of Hindustan Steel Limited (Fertilizer & Chemical Division)

1041. SHRI S. K. RAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Steel Ltd. (Fertilizer & Chemical Division) had relaxed its distribution policy in 1971, in order to help unemployed graduates on priority basis; and

(b) if so, the number of unemployed graduates alongwith their names and addresses, who have been accommodated since the relaxation came into force?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. However, the Company decided in 1971 to give encouragement in the matter of appointment of distributors for their fertilizers to unemployed agriculture graduates who were financially sound and could handle the distributorship independently.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Debt Relief to Low Income Group of Urban Labourers

1042. SHRI B. R. SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state whether Government have taken or propose to take any measures to give debt relief to low income group of urban labourers analogous to rural labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): Details of the proposed legislation to provide for relief from indebtedness to industrial workers are being worked out.

All India Conference of Textile Workers held in Bombay

1043 SHRI M KATHAMUTHU. Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether an All India Conference of textile workers was held in Bombay in November, 1975; and

(b) whether Government have taken decision on the recommendations of that Conference?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) and (b). Presumably reference is to the All-India Conference of Textile Workers at Bombay from November 21-23, 1975, which is reported to have discussed workers' participation in management in the textile industry, the question of lock-out, retrenchments, lay-offs, withdrawal of the bonus ordinance, etc. Government have seen some reports about this conference.

Steps to provide Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Facilities to the Villages of Gujarat

1044. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Gujarat where (i) postal; (ii) telegraph and (iii) telephone facilities are not available; and

(b) the steps being taken to provide these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA) (a) Postal.—There are 18275 villages in Gujarat out of which 12311 (67.4 per cent) are having daily postal delivery, 2658 (14.6 per cent) tri-weekly, 1213 (6.6 per cent) bi-weekly, 1617 (8.8 per cent) weekly and 476 (2.6 per cent) at an interval of over a week. All the villages are thus having postal facilities

Telecom—Telegraph facilities are not available in 17554 villages and telephone facilities are not available in 18120 villages

(b) Postal—Action is being taken to increase the postal facilities by providing daily delivery of letters in more villages.

Telecom—Telephone and telegraph facilities are generally provided only when the proposals are financially viable but in order to extend the facilities to rural, backward and hilly areas in the country, a liberal policy is followed for providing the facility provided that a prescribed minimum percentage of the annual recurring expenditure would be met from the likely revenue. Places for which this concessional policy is applied includes District/Sub-divisional/Tehsil and Block Headquarters, remote areas, thickly populated villages, tourist and pilgrim centres, irrigation and power project sites, etc.