

(b) The management of the mills is reported to be seeking financial assistance from financing institutions.

Kangra Tea Planters Marketing Industrial Society Ltd.

1264. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of **International Trade** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government have approached the Central Government or the Tea Board for the grant of a loan of Rs. 5 lakh for the starting of the Kangra Tea Planters Marketing Industrial Society Ltd., Palampur; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Central Government?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) The Tea Board has received a request from the Punjab Government for a loan of Rs. 3 lakhs only in this respect.

(b) The matter is under the consideration of the Board.

Closure of Coal Mines in Bihar

1265. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal mines closed in the State of Bihar since the declaration of Emergency; and

(b) the reasons for the closure?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) Two coal mines, viz., Jogta and Ekra Khas collieries have been closed since the declaration of the emergency.

(b) In both cases, there was occurrence of fire in the mines, and in order to control the fire, these had to be flooded. This resulted in the closure of the mines.

Mining Machinery Plant at Singareni Colliery Area

1266. { **Shri Sudhansu Das:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a second Mining Machinery Plant is proposed to be established in the Singareni Colliery area;

(b) if so, the kind of machinery which will be produced there; and

(c) the annual production thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) The location of the Plant has not yet been finally decided. Singareni Colliery area is one of the places under consideration.

(b) and (c). Details regarding the specific items to be manufactured and the production capacities are to be finalised in consultation with the Polish experts.

Bokaro Steel Plant

1268. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to entrust the construction of the Bokaro Steel Plant to certain Indian firms;

(b) if so, to whom this work has been entrusted and whether a time schedule has been finalised for the construction programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) to (c). Government intend to entrust the engineering consultancy work of Bokaro to Messrs M. N. Dastur & Co., an Indian firm, who prepared the Detailed Project