

Prices of Steel

- *251. { Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of raising the prices of steel of various types has been of late under the consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). The entire question of price control on iron and steel is under consideration of the Government, on the basis of the Raj Committee's recommendations.

Rourkela Steel Plant

- *252. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Maheswar Naik:
Shri Tan Singh:
Shrimati Renu
Chakravarty:
Dr. Mahadeva Prasad:
Shri Jedhe:
Shri Himatsingka:

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

(a) whether it is feared that there will be a complete breakdown of the plant at Rourkela Steel Works unless immediate steps were taken to build up a sufficient stock of spare parts according to a report by Mr. Walter Solveen, Secretary in the West German Economics Ministry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has listed proper maintenance of the steel plant, adequate provision for spare parts and better labour relations as the three main requirements of efficient functioning of the plant; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) to (c). Mr. W. Solveen of the Ministry of Economics, Federal Republic of Germany visited India in January, 1964, in connection with the half-yearly appraisal of the progress made in the implementation of the Rourkela expansion programme. During discussions with the Management of Hindustan Steel Ltd., he drew attention to the building up of a larger stock of spare parts, proper maintenance of the Plant and better labour relations.

So far as spare parts are concerned, an assessment of the requirements has been made and action to procure additional spares is being taken. Proper maintenance of the Plant is also being looked into. As regards the labour, relations, the House is already aware that at present, there is no recognised Union at Rourkela which has led to inter-union rivalry. Hindustan Steel Limited are aware of the necessity of recognising one of the unions as early as possible and necessary action in this regard will be taken as soon as verification of membership is completed by the State Government.

Export of Cotton Yarn to Britain

*253, **Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of International Trade be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of Indian made cotton yarn to Great Britain during the first nine months of 1963 has gone up by nearly 1 million lbs, as compared to the same period previous year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the cotton yarn market in Great Britain experienced a shortfall of supplies coming from Hong Kong and Western European countries; and

(c) what factors stood in the way of Indian cotton yarn exporters taking full advantage of this shortfall?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir; by 3 million lbs.

(b) The available statistics show that during the first six months of 1963 imports of cotton yarn into U.K. from Hong Kong and some West European countries were less than during the corresponding period of 1962.

(c) Does not arise since the Indian exports have risen substantially and may nearly reach the full quota in 1963.

Kandla Free Trade Zone

- *254. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of **International Trade** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 555 on the 13th December, 1963 and state:

(a) what types of industries are to be set up in the Kandla Free Trade Zone; and

(b) the progress since made in the implementation of the project and how soon the Zone is likely to work?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) The types of Industries to be set up will be decided after a scrutiny of applications which are in the process of being invited.

(b) The details in regard to the percentage of production of various potential industries which must be exported from the Zone are being worked out. The physical execution of the Developmental works will start in April this year. The project is expected to be completed in about a year and a half.

A brief progress report is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2372/64].

Special and Alloy Steels

- *255. { Shri Maheswar Naik:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

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

state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under a crash programme for boosting up industrial production, high priority has been accorded for rapid development of indigenous capacity for manufacture of a wide variety of special and alloy steels; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the scheme for production of special and alloy steels?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. High priority has been accorded in the matter of production of alloy and special steels. Capacity of about 600,000 tons has been licensed already against the requirement of about 461,600 tons at the end of Third Plan as estimated by the N.C.A.E.R. Consistently with the importance attached to the production of alloy and special steels, these projects in the private sector are given high priority in the allotment of foreign exchange and the clearances for the import of capital goods.

In addition to licences issued to parties in the private sector, an alloy and special steel plant is being set up at Durgapur in the public sector. The Mysore Iron & Steel Ltd. is also being converted for the production of alloy and special steels. Production of electrical sheets is being planned at Rourkela.

The production of special steels using existing facilities in steel plants like Bhilai, Bhadravati, etc. is also being planned.

Salt Factory in Orissa

443. **Shri G. Mohanty:** Will the Minister of **Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Salt Factory in Baliapal P.S. of Balasore District (Orissa) made some representations to Government for aid to the said Industry; and