

to the total coal feed is expected to come down to the level envisaged in the original designs of the washeries.

Bolani Ores Mines

2361. Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda: Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expansion programme of Bolani Ores Mines to meet the increased requirements of the Durgapur Steel Plant has been given a practical shape;

(b) if not, when it is likely to be finalised and when the target of supplying 1.6 million tonnes of iron ore to Durgapur Steel Plant would be achieved; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to accelerate the pace of work in this respect?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) to (c). M/s. Bolani Ores Limited are already supplying about 1.6 million tonnes of iron ore per year to the Durgapur Steel Plant. To meet the requirements of the Steel Plant after expansion to 1.6 million ingot tonnes, a scheme for the expansion of Bolani Ores has already been finalised. The expansion envisages production of 2 million tonnes per annum of lump furnace feed and 1 million tonnes per annum beneficiated iron ore fines. The foreign exchange cost is to be financed by a loan from the Agency for International Development, Washington. Pending the grant of the loan, all preliminary investigations regarding rail movement, requirements of power, water, etc., have been completed and tender documents for the import of equipment have been furnished to the A.I.D. authorities. Efforts are being made to obtain early approval of the A.I.D. to the grant of the loan. The production target is expected to be reached by March, 1968.

Houses for Bokaro Employees

2362. Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda: Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far re-

garding the construction of 1,000 permanent houses at Bokaro for the employees of the Bokaro Steel Plant; and

(b) whether the construction work is going on strictly in conformity with economy and utility?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) The construction of 992 permanent houses at Bokaro is making satisfactory progress, and it is expected that these houses will be ready for occupation progressively from September to December, 1965.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Site Reclamation in Bokaro

2363. Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda: Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether the feasibility of procuring earth moving equipment from various project sites in India, where they are no longer required, was considered for site reclamation work in Bokaro from the point of economy and conserving foreign exchange;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons to place an order with the U.S.S.R. for supplying the equipment worth Rs. 13 million?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). Site preparation work at Bokaro involves considerable earthwork and has to be completed within a period of two years to enable the construction of the steelworks to commence on schedule. In view of the volume of work and the tight time schedule it is necessary that earth moving equipment should be fully serviceable. Such earth moving equipment as may be surplus to the requirements of other projects would not meet this requirement as the equipment would have been in use for fairly long periods and would require considerable outlay of foreign exchange on