

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a considerable quantity of accumulated spares which has little scope for being used even at a distant date and, if so, the reasons for placing orders if there was no utility for them; and

(c) whether the need for an inquiry in the matter has been considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) None of the units of Durgapur Steel Plant are lying idle for want of spares. However, there are some units which are not working to full capacity due among other reasons to shortage of spares. The shortage of spares is partly due to failure of indigenous supplies.

(b) and (c). Some of these spares are in the nature of insurance spares which have to be there even if they are not actually needed for a long time. However, the Pande Committee had also pointed out that there was scope for reducing the inventories of spares. Hindustan Steel Ltd. have since appointed a High Level Committee to go into the problem of spares with a view to streamlining inventories.

DURGAPUR COAL WASHERY

4551. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA :
SHRI D. C. SHARMA :

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

(a) whether the Durgapur Coal Washery has run into conveyor trouble;

(b) whether any action has been taken to instal a conveyor belt to take the Sinks to the thermal power station for burning; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) No Sir.

L41LSS/68-6

(b) A conveyor belt exists to convey middlings to Durgapur Thermal Power Station.

(c) Does not arise.

SMALL CAR PROJECT

4552. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA :
SHRI D. C. SHARMA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Government have requested the Centre to locate the proposed small car project in the public sector in that State;

(b) whether the request of the Andhra Government has been considered; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Andhra Pradesh Government have been informed that their request will be considered, along with similar requests from other State Governments, after a decision is taken to proceed with the small car project.

IMPORT OF DEFECTIVE RAILS

4553. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Rails which were imported after being duly inspected by the Director General, India Supply Mission, London were found defective some time back thus putting the Railways to a loss;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken against the erring officials; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) All imported rails are covered by a guarantee for a period of 5 years and the suppliers reimburse the cost of