

also takes the assistance of the State Directors of Industries, the National Small Industries Corporation and such other agencies of the Government as and when required. Intensive Campaigns have also been organised from time to time in different parts of the country to help entrepreneurs desirous of investing their money in industry.

Construction of over-head Bridge at Murray crossing

501. SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn continuously to the immense inconvenience caused to the public at the Murray crossing at Kanpur;

(b) whether Government propose to construct an over-head bridge at the Murray crossing; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) No such inconvenience has been reported to the Railway Administration except that there are a few instances of detention to road-users of a little over half an hour.

(b) It has been decided to provide an underbridge, but the construction can be started only when the Uttar Pradesh P.W.D. Department is in a position to undertake their portion of the work on the approaches of the bridge. They have been requested to intimate their firm programme.

(c) Does not arise.

Stoppage of Express Trains at Roora

502. SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a number of petitions and de-

putations from the residents of Roora, District Bilhaur—Kanpur (UP) demanding stoppage of Express trains at that station; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) Yes.

(b) The request has been examined but not found justified by the quantum and pattern of traffic offering at Roora station.

Durgapur Steel Plant

503. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the present pace of production at Durgapur steel plant the total losses during 1968-69 would amount to Rs. 15 crores as against a loss of Rs. 25 crores suffered by the Plant last year; and

(b) if so, the steps taken this year to raise the pace of production with a view to eliminate the losses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) This is not possible to indicate the losses this year at this stage. It would depend on the production programme, marketing and other factors. The plant suffered a loss of about Rs. 17 crores during 1967-68.

(b) The following steps are being taken to improve production:

(i) Battery No. 1 of the Coke oven, Ovens are being rebuilt and repairs to Battery No. 2 are being carried out;

(ii) Sinter is being introduced in the Blast Furnace burden;

(iii) Some essential spares for betterment of maintenance are being procured;

- (iv) the number of soaking pits is being increased;
- (v) some balancing equipment is being installed in the Wheel and Axle Plant and some other units;
- (vi) the various recommendations of the Pande Committee are being implemented; and
- (vii) The Labour situation is constantly causing concern although efforts are constantly being made to improve the Labour relations.

As some of the above measures will take some time for completion the full effect of these measures may not be felt during this year itself.

Coal production during Fourth Five Year Plan

504. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to scale down considerably the target of coal production during the Fourth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) the original targets laid down for 1970-71 and 1973-74;

(d) the reasons for scaling down the demand targets and how far it reflects the reduction in expected demand for coal and the rate of expansion of demand over the Fourth Plan period; and

(e) how far the scaling down of the target is likely to affect adversely the expected growth of job opportunities and the rate of industrial growth?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) to (c) . The original estimate of demand for Coal in 1970-71, as mentioned in the Draft Outline of the Fourth Five Year Plan (1966-71),

was 106 million tonnes. No target for 1973-74 was worked out then. Recent studies indicate that the demand may be between 90 and 95 million tonnes in 1973-74. The exact requirements are being worked out in consultation with the Planning Commission.

(d) and (e). The targets are being scaled down because the Coal consuming sectors are not expanding as rapidly as was expected earlier. Production will be phased to satisfy the demand completely and will not affect the general rate of industrial growth and employment opportunities adversely.

Coir Industry in Kerala

505. SHRI P. C. ADICHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Coir industry in Kerala is suffering from want of demand of its products, both within the country and abroad and that the exports of coir yarn and its products have remained static since 1964-65;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken since 1964-65 to explore new markets and to expand the existing markets for these products; and

(d) what further steps are proposed to be taken in that direction during this year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The demand for coir and coir products in the domestic market is increasing steadily. It is, however, true that during the period 1964-65 to 1967-68 there was no improvement in exports overseas. With the removal of export duty on products exports prospects have improved.

(b) The reasons for slackness of demand overseas are competition