

that the Bokaro Plant authorities under the Soviet influence have adopted unrealistic specifications and have made the supply position difficult; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the steps taken to ease the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) :
(a) Yes, Sir. The delay in supply of refractories by the indigenous manufacturers is one of the main reasons for rephasing of the commissioning schedule of the Bokaro Steel Plant.

(b) No, Sir. The indigenous refractory manufacturers have only pointed out that the specifications and the inspection procedure are rather stringent.

(c) Orders for import of 22,000 tonnes of refractories have been placed on the U. S. S. R. It is also proposed to import another 24,063 tonnes of special types of refractories from the U. S. S. R. to adhere to the construction schedule of the plant. Permissible relaxations in inspection procedure for supplies from indigenous sources are also being allowed without affecting the quality of refractories.

Low Production in Wheel and Axle Plant of Durgapur Steel Plant

307. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that despite full supply of steel, the production in the wheel and Axle Plant of the Durgapur Steel Plant has not reached its rated capacity;

(b) whether the production of the Plant could not be increased because of the inter-Union rivalries;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Director-in-charge of the Durgapur Steel Plant has written to the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal that if production in the Wheel and Axle Plant was not raised,

he would advise shutting the Plant and its transfer to the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works; and

(d) if so, the facts of the case and the steps taken by Government to ensure that the Wheel and the Axle Plant works to its rated capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) :
(a) The Wheel and Axle Plant has not reached its rated capacity. The failure to reach capacity is not related to supply of steel.

(b) Inter-union rivalry is one of the causes for low production.

(c) The Director-in-charge of the Durgapur Steel Plant, wrote a letter to the President of the Hindustan Steel Employees' Union, which is the recognised Union, stating that if the production in the Wheel and Axle Plant did not improve, the Plant might be closed down. A copy of this letter was endorsed to the Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal.

(d) Various steps are being taken to increase the production of this Plant; e.g. introduction of a new wage incentive scheme, installation of Balancing facilities, various repairs of machines and equipment, procurement of spare parts, etc as recommended by the Pande Committee and by Messrs. Monkhouse and Kirk, the two British Experts.

Distribution of Raw Wool in Rajasthan by Khadi and Village Industries Commission

308. SHRI D.N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Khadi and Village Industries Commission had undertaken to distribute raw wool in the famine affected areas in Rajasthan for spinning as a measure for creating employment among the famine-affected people;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Commission has since stopped distribution of raw wool;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same and whether the suspension of the distribution of raw wool is a temporary phase;

(d) if so, when it is likely to be resumed again; and

(e) the particulars of employment potentialities that were created as a result of the project which was taken up by the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Curb on Monopoly in Cement Industry

309. SHRI MUHAMMAD SHERIFF :
SHRI S. M. KRISHNA :
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH :

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

(a) whether Members of the Consultative Committee for his Ministry have urged Government to curb monopoly in the cement industry and to make arrangements to ensure proper distribution of cement after its decontrol; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

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

(b) As already announced by me in the Lok Sabha on the 22nd December, 1969 Government have decided to continue for he present the existing arrangements for sale of cement on f. o. r. destination price

and freight pooling arrangements beyond 31. 12. 1969.

Crisis in Bharat Heavy Eletricals Ltd.

310. SHRI UMANATH :
SHRI B. K. MODAK :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI SATYA NARAIN SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited is running into losses and faces a crisis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have any specific programme to run the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited smoothly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). Though Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited has incurred losses, yet such losses are not unusual for such a capital-intensive project in its initial stage of production and manufacturing sophisticated equipment involving a long gestation period. It is not correct to say that the company is facing a crisis. One of the Units of the Company, namely High Pressure Boiler Plant Tiruchirapalli has started yielding profit from 1967-68.

(c) and (d). Efforts are being continuously made to load the Units of the company with adequate orders and to diversify their products so as to make the Units profitable, as early as possible.

Dispersal of small and Medium Scale Entrepreneurship for Development of India

311. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:
Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL