

Unions to accept the proposals put forward by the Labour Commissioner and agreed to by the Management of Durgapur Steel Plant. The workers resumed duty on 31.10.70 and the situation is normal now.

(c) as always Trade union rivalry is one of the causes of the labour trouble.

(d) Workers Unions have been advised not to indulge in action detrimental to both the workers and running of the Plant.

(e) Durgapur Steel Plant's cumulative loss up to 31.3.70 is estimated at Rs. 835.42 millions. The loss of production in terms of saleable products during the strike period from 12.8.70 to 24.8.70 and during the lock-out in Steel Melting Shop from 26.9.70 to 31.10.70 has been estimated at Rs. 1.93 crores and Rs. 85.28 lakhs respectively by Hindustan Steel Ltd. Once, there is stoppage of production it takes some time to achieve normal rated production, and therefore, it is too early to correctly assess these losses.

Labour Relations in Durgapur Steel Plant

367. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that he had held discussions with the former Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu in October, 1970 on the problems of labour relations in Durgapur Steel Plant and to bring discipline among them ;

(b) if so, whether the former Deputy Chief Minister gave any assurance on behalf of the CPI (M) led union in the Steel Plant for peaceful cooperation by the Union members ; and

(c) if not, the details of the subjects discussed and Government's reaction to the destructive activities carried on in the Durgapur Steel Plant ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) to (c). The former Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal met the Minister of Steel and Heavy Engineering in October, 1970. *inter-alia*; the difficult

industrial relations in Durgapur were discussed with him and he was requested to use his good offices to improve the situation and maintenance of discipline in the plant. No specific assurance was asked for or given by the former Deputy Chief Minister.

Construction of Bokaro Steel Plant

368. SHRI D. N. PATODIA :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the first phase of Bokaro Steel Plant will now be completed in 1973 instead of in 1972 as envisaged earlier ;

(b) on how many occasions the construction schedule for this plant has been revised since inception ; and

(c) how the cost of construction has gone up as a result thereof and the causes for the latest postponement ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) As has already been stated in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2287 dt. 10.3.1970, Starred Question No. 708 dt. 31.3.1970, and Unstarred Question No. 1264 dt. 4.8.1970, according to the revised construction schedule, the first stage of the Bokaro Steel Plant will be completed by March, 1973. The earlier Schedule gave the commissioning of the entire stage I by June, 1972.

(b) Thrice.

(c) Each month's delay in the commissioning of the Plant will cost Rs. 25 lakhs on account of indirect expenses like salaries, establishment, technical supervision etc. This does not include interest on loan capital and escalation in the prices of equipment and materials due to statutory revisions in the prices of steel and cement and rates of wages, exact incidence on these account, has not yet been assessed.

Important factors leading to the deferment of the construction schedule of the plant are non-availability of steel plates of killed quality for fabrication of structurals, failure of indigenous manufacturers to supply refractories in time; labour troubles etc.

Fall in Industrial Production

369. SHRI D. N. PATODIA :
SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA :

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

(a) whether it is fact that the average increase in industrial production during the first four months of 1970 is much below the increase in the similar period in 1969;

(b) what are the respective figures of 1970 and 1969 and how do Government account for the fall in the rate of increase;

(c) which are the principal items in which the rate of increase is the lowest and the items which have registered a fall ;

(d) what is the relative performance of Private Sector and Public Sector Units regarding the rate of production ; and

(e) what is the expected rate of increase in the remaining period of 1970 and how is it expected to affect employment ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M.R. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b). Preliminary figures of the index of Industrial Production are available only for the first six months of 1970. While these figures show an increase of 5.8% over the corresponding Period last year, against a higher rate of increase during the first half of 1969 over the corresponding period in 1968, it may not be appropriate to draw any specific conclusions from these figures, which are in the nature of preliminary estimates at this stage. The rate of industrial growth has, however been affected by shortage of steel.

(c) Among the few items which have registered a decline in production during January

June, 1970 as compared with the corresponding period of 1969 are bolts, nuts and rivets, duplicators, pressures stoves, steel pipes and tubes, cranes, lifts. non-ferrous alloy and castings, lead, coal minig machinery pesticides equipment, twist drills, electric fans bare copper conductors, three wheelers, bleaching powder, phosphatic fertilizers. automobile tyres, bicycles tyres and rubber footwear. In some other items such as auto leaf springs, oil pressure lamps structurals, transmissin towers, copper, aluminium foils, house service meters, aluminium conductors, paper insulated power cables, automobiles,, sulphuric acid, cement and bicycles tubes, although there was an increase in production during the first half of 1970 as compared with the first half of 1969, the rate of increase was less than 5%.

(d) Separate data in regard to public sector and private sector units are not available at this stage.

(e) Several measures have been adopted which are expected to result in quickening the pace of industrial growth during the remaining period of 1970. The Steel shortage is sought to be made up through liberal imports. The new industrial licensing policy is also expected to stimulate industrial investment. In addition, demand for several products is picking up rapidly, which should provide necessary stimulus for increased production. As a result of these factors, industrial production during the rest of the year is expected to increase substantially.

Production of consumer goods in Public Sector

370. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that despite warning from the Planning Commission the Ministry has taken a decision to go ahead with the proposal to set up consumer industries in the public sector ;

(b) if so, the objections of the Planning Commission ;

(c) how the Ministry propose to meet the objections ; and