

**SHRI G. VISWANATHAN :** I want to know from the Minister whether we want the Straits of Malacca to be kept as international waters and, if so, what initiative are we going to take of the fact that both those countries, Indonesia and Malaysia, are going to extend their territorial waters ?

**SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH :** This is a highly technical and a very complicated legal matter, and it requires a deep study and examination. It would not be proper for us to make our views known at this juncture. We are giving attention to it and it is being examined by us, and when the question is taken up at the conference, we will express our view on this matter.

**Association of Labour in Public Undertakings in Steel**

\*785. **SHRI S. N. MISRA :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken to associate labour at each stage of production in the Public Undertakings in steel ; and

(b) if so, the main feature thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) :** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

*Statement*

(a) and (b). In the Bhilai Steel Plant, a bipartite Central Production Committee and bipartite Departmental Production Committees have been set up in the major Departments. These Committees consider aspects of work relating to increase in production and productivity including matters relating to optimum utilisation of materials, men and machines. The Central Production Committee is, however inactive at present due to intra-union difficulties.

A bipartite Central Production Committee and bipartite Departmental Production Committees have been recently set up in the Rourkela Steel Plant to study operational results and current and long-term departmental production problems.

It has so far not been possible to set up such Committees in the Durgapur Steel Plant.

In the Alloy Steels Plant, bipartite shop level Committees have been reconstituted to discuss various issues including production.

**SHRI S. N. MISRA :** May I know from the hon. Minister what type of participation is being expected at all levels in respect of the Bhilai Steel plant, and what is the kind of participation that they would expect in the Rourkela and Durgapur plants and in the Alloy Steels Plant ?

**SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM :** In pursuance of the Industrial Truce Resolution of 1962 a bipartite central production committee was constituted in the Bhilai steel plant. It was expected to function as the apex body of the departmental committees.

Unfortunately, however, this has not functioned as well as it should owing to intra-trade union rivalry within the recognised workers' union itself. In the departmental committees workers' representatives have been taking keen interest in the work of the committees and on many occasions points raised by them about matters of production have been used.

So far as Rourkela steel plant is concerned, on the 16th of October last, a bipartite central production committee and some departmental production committees have been set up. These committees were inaugurated on 27th November and have started functioning, particularly in the coke oven plants, blast furnace, Steel melting shop, foundry and fertiliser plant. It is proposed to go ahead with formation of departmental committees in other departments.

So far as Durgapur is concerned, though the management invited the recognised unions in November 1970 to nominate representatives to certain committees including joint production committee, the union has not responded so far. We are of course having discussions about production both with the recognised and unrecognised union in Durgapur.

**SHRI S. N. MISRA :** Is there any possibility of labour participation in respect of promotion and employment ?

**SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM :** Nothing is outside the purview of these production committees. Matters of promotion are sometimes raised even there. But broadly these are matters which are taken up usually between the recognised unions, sometimes unrecognised unions, and the management and workers discuss them, though ultimately the decision in matters like this has to be the decision of the management.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** It is evident from the statement that in Bhilai bipartite central production departmental committees had been formed and similar committees had been formed in Rourkela. The hon Minister explained that because of trade union rivalry in Durgapur it has not been formed. I should like to know from him whether on the basis of the report of the Public Undertakings Committee any decision had been taken by the Government, especially by his Ministry, to include workers' representatives on the HSL board as such ?

**SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM :** The hon. Member is as aware as I am that this proposal was made by the Government to the representatives of the unions who are represented in what is called the joint negotiating committee for the steel industry, but unfortunately the representatives have not been able to give any recommendation about the procedure that should be followed in affecting representation of workers in the management. The workers' representatives welcomed the proposal and in the meeting of the committee held in February 1972, they expressed the feeling that this would not really amount to labour participation in management unless this participation was at all levels, starting from the shop floor level. I myself discussed it again on the 15th March with the committee, and while appreciating the points they made requested them to discuss it again in the light of the steps that we have taken in Rourkela and put up proposals which we would be in a position to implement.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE :** In view of the intra trade union rivalries and difficulties as stated by the hon. Minister, is the department considering the representation of employees at various levels on the basis of direct elections from the employees themselves ?

**SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM :** We do not think that to adopt that procedure without the approval and co-operation of the unions would advance the interests of either the workers or of the plant.

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA :** Is it not a fact that it is not the inter-union rivalry but on the other hand the method of functioning of the top officers of the steel plants that is creating serious obstruction to production ?

In this respect, may I know whether the floor level committees that the hon. Minister is proposing would be statutory bodies or simply a nominal body which will hold meetings, but whose recommendations will not be accepted by the top management ?

**SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM :** The answer to the first part of the question is : no. In regard to the second part, naturally the decisions arrived at between the management and the workers at different levels will be given every weight by the management and they will be implemented, subject of course to further discussions if there is disagreement at higher levels.

**Workers Unemployed Due to Power Shortage in Gujarat**

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\*786. **SHRI P. M. MEHTA :**  
**SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL :**

Will the Minister of **LABOUR AND REHABILITATION** be pleased to state :

(a) whether power shortage in Gujarat has rendered a large number of workers unemployed ;

(b) the total number of employees affected ;

(c) whether the Associations of the Labour Union have requested the Union Government to intervene and suggested that instead of closing some machines, thus rendering workers jobless, the mills should be asked to reduce hours of work ; and

(d) if so, the kind of assistance the Union Ministry are considering in view of