

ment of Bonus Act as being "discriminatory"; and

(b) if so, whether workmen employed in public sector undertakings will now be brought within the purview of the Act ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) No Sir. However, the High Court of Andhra Pradesh is reported to have struck down Section 32(x) of the Act.

(b) A copy of the judgement has been called for to examine the matter.

Strike by Building Workers in Delhi

*800. **SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 3,50,000 building workers began an indefinite strike on the 21st April, 1972 in Delhi demanding the enforcement of the Government notification for the payment of Rs. 4.50 a day as wages and fulfilment of other demands ;

(b) if so, their main demands ; and

(c) the steps taken to look into them ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) A number of building workers went on strike with effect from 21.4.1972.

(b) Their main demand is for the revision of minimum wages from Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 4.50 per day.

(c) Proposals for revising the minimum wages are under consideration.

Amendment in Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957

5767. **SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the request for amendments by the Mysore Government to the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 has been pending with the Union Government for quite a long time ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Some amendments proposed by the Government of Mysore along with amendments proposed by other State Governments, are under examination.

(b) The Mysore Government's proposals relate mainly to royalty and dead rent.

Project Report of Salem Steel Plant by M/s Dasturco

5768. **SHRI VAYALAR RAVI :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the project report prepared by M/s Dasturco for the Salem Steel Plant has been found defective ;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ; and

(c) the total amount paid to this Company for preparation of this report and the steps taken to recover the loss caused by the defective report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) No, Sir. Certain clarifications had, however, to be obtained from them during the course of scrutiny of their Feasibility Report on the Salem Steel Project.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A fee of Rs. 3 lakhs was paid to M/s Dastur and Co. for preparing the Feasibility Report on the Salem Steel Project. The question of recovery of this amount from M/s Dastur and Co. does not arise.

Destruction of shops and residential shed in Rourkela by armed police force of Rourkela Estate Department

5769. **SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Armed Police Force of Rourkela Estate Department of the Steel Plant

have destroyed and set-on fire temporary shops and residential sheds at Bisra Chowk, Rourkela-1 (Orissa) on the 17th April, 1972 causing loss and damage to the tune of lakhs of rupees, thus rendering thousands of people home-less ; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take against the persons responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) No sir. The Estate Department of Rourkela Steel Plant does not have any Armed Police.

In pursuance of a decision taken at a meeting attended by the District authorities, a clearance drive for removal of unauthorised encroachments was launched by the Town Administration Department of Rourkela Steel Plant on 17.4.72 with the assistance of the local Police Authorities and Magistracy. The encroachers voluntarily left with their belongings and there was no violence. The land encroached upon was subsequently levelled. Only in one case, the hawker who was running a temporary restaurant, on seeing the Police and Magistrate approaching the spot, himself set fire to his thatched roof.

(b) Does not arise.

Blackmarketing in Distribution of Steel to States

5770. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is lot of black-marketing going on in the distribution of steel in the various States ; and

(b) if so, what positive steps have been taken by Government to check such black-marketing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI

SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) Some reports have been received by the Government about steel materials allotted to the actual users and consumers being sold in the open market.

(b) Regional Offices of the Iron and Steel Controller have been set up in different parts of the country and one of their functions is to check misuse of steel. The Iron and Steel (Control) Order has also been amended to provide that utilisation of steel for purposes other than those for which steel is allocated or applied for is a violation of the Control Order and would attract penal provisions of the Essential Commodities Act. In investigating such complaints, the assistance of the C B. I. is also being taken in suitable cases.

Increase in Coal Price:

5771. SHRI AWDHESH CHANDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times the coal prices have been increased since 1969-70 ;

(b) the grade-wise figures of each of such price increase ;

(c) whether price increases in respect of Grade A, B, C and D of Coking Coal and Selected Grade of non-coking variety have been proportionately higher than those of Grades F.G.HH and Gr. N. 1 ; and

(d) The basis of allowing the aforesaid increase ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). Consequent to the decontrol of coal prices, with effect from 24.7.67, it is now entirely for the buyers and sellers to settle the prices mutually. However for supplies of coal to the Railways, the following price increases have been agreed to from 1969-70 :—

(i) From : 1 10.69 70 paise per tonne on all grades of non-coking coal.

(ii) From 1.1.71

Selected Grade from Talcher	
Grade I	—do—

Rs per tonne
4.33
3.96