

Foreign Assistance for Expansion of Durgapur Steel Plant

*483. SHRI R. S. PANDEY : Will the MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to expand the present capacity of the Durgapur Steel Plant ;

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

(c) whether any foreign assistance has been taken to expand the capacity of this Steel Plant in order to augment production of Steel there ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The question of expansion of the capacity of the Durgapur Steel Plant is under consideration.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY : Taking into consideration the huge investment of public money in the Durgapur steel plant, may I know what the present production position is in relation to its installed capacity whether it is going down, and if so, the reasons ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : The estimated production for the year 1971-72 is 700,000 tonnes. If we compare it with the previous year, it is an improvement, as the production for 1970-71 was 634,000 tonnes, though it is lower than the production in years previous to that.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY : What is the labour condition there at present, whether they are co-operating, whether there is strike, what is the law and order situation ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : We are having some problems, and I cannot say that all the problems there have been solved, but the Minister of Labour in West Bengal, Dr. Gopal Das Nag, has recently taken the initiative to have discussions with all the unions in the Durgapur steel plant, as well as the Alloy Steel Plant, and we hope that as a result of this initiative, the position will improve.

SHRI POPATLAL M. JOSHI : What action has the Government taken for reaching

the estimated capacity within the last one year ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : We are taking all the action that we can. Repairs to and replacement of coke oven equipment is planned, and we have made some improvement in that area. We have decided to introduce oxygen-lancing in open hearth furnaces. Auxiliary fuels like furnace oil *etc.*, are also being introduced so that we will be able to make up for the weakness in the production of coke oven gas. Regarding the important problem of relations with labour, initiative is being taken.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : The Minister said that along with his counter part in West Bengal, they have taken up seriously the labour situation in Durgapur steel plant. But only yesterday a news appeared in the *Ananda Bazaar Patrika* in West Bengal that in a day within six hours, there has been a case in which one employee has been promoted twice. May I know whether this fantastic situation with regard to the promotion policy is existing and if so, what concrete steps the Minister proposes to take in the matter ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : I have not seen that newspaper report and I have no particular reason to believe that it is correct. If the hon. member will give me the information, I shall investigate and give him the facts.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : Do Government have any proposal that before any plant reaches its full capacity, no further expansion should take place, so that there may not be idle capacity locked up there ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : We have not taken that as a definite pre-condition for expansion of a particular plant, but certainly it is one of the matters to be kept in mind when deciding whether to expand the plant or not.

माना कैम्प के सरनाथी

*486. डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पाण्डेय : क्या भ्रम और पुनर्जाति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के माना कैम्प में ऐसे