

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY):** (a) to (c). The Resolution on the Scheme of Workers' participation in Industry, announced by Government on 30th October, 1975, has been implemented and is in the process of implementation in about 92 Central public undertakings; besides, according to information available, it is also being implemented or is in the process of implementation in about 140 private sector undertakings. Some State Governments have also modified the Scheme so as to cover even undertakings employing less than 500 workers. This subject also came up for discussion in the conference of State Labour Ministers and in the Chief Ministers' Conference. The National Apex Body also had occasion to discuss this scheme and felt that the National Industrial Committees set up for different industries and the State Apex Bodies should take initiative to ensure that the Scheme is introduced in all Units as early as possible. The response to this Scheme has been very healthy and the Trade Unions and Managements have expressed willing Cooperation to make the Scheme a success. This helps in improving production and productivity.

#### Probe into Problems of Steel Plants

**\*455 SHRI S M BANERJEE** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have asked two consultant firms to go into the problems of all the steel plants;

(b) whether Government also propose to assess the possibility to diversify the production in these steel plants; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV):** (a) So far as the integrated steel plants are concerned, no such appointment of consultants has been

made to go into their problems. However, two firms of Consulting Engineers have been commissioned by Government to study the problems of mini steel plants and suggest remedial measures.

(b) The possibility of diversification of production is one of the aspects which the Consulting Engineers will consider.

(c) The Consultants will make an in-depth study of representative mini-steel plants in order to assess their present status, cost of production and feasibility of diversification into other products. Based on such a study together with the perspective demand for different grades of steel and the commercial viability of production in mini steel plants the Consultants will suggest possible modification and diversification, if any by the mini steel plants.

#### Navigability of Lower Hooghly

**\*457 SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether any survey has been made of the improvement in the draught position of lower Hooghly and its navigability, particularly for the Calcutta Port and Haldia, due to the increased water flow in the last few months of 1975-76 through the Farakka Barrage and its feeder canal through Bhagirathi Hooghly at Jangipur; and

(b) if so, the latest position in that respect?

**THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (DR. G. S. DHILLON):** (a) and (b). Regular surveys and observations of the Hooghly are made by the Calcutta Port Trust as part of their normal programme.

The period of observation since the operation of the Feeder Canal of the Farakka Barrage Project is considered