

(a) whether Hindustan Steel Limited propose to achieve the target of 125 ingot tonnes per man per year in Bhilai, Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be achieved; and

(c) how far this productivity in terms of ingots will improve the production and containment of manpower?

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

#### *Statement*

The Committee on Cost of Production of Steel (Mahatab Committee) appointed by Government in August, 1965, had expressed the view that it should be possible to raise the productivity in respect of Works personnel to about 125 ingot tonnes per man year and above in each of the steel plants in the country. The present levels of productivity are, however, quite low as compared to this target, both in the public sector and private sector steel plants. Hindustan Steel Limited is, however, alive to the need for improving labour productivity. This is sought to be achieved by stepping up production to the rated capacity of the steel plants, by containment of man-power to levels as determined by industrial engineering studies and through their new production incentive scheme which, among other things, offers inducement for working with standard manning. It has been estimated that if the Durgapur, Rourkela and Bhilai Steel Plants produce to their rated capacity of 1.6, 1.8 and 2.5 million ingot tonnes respectively with standard manning, it may be possible to achieve a productivity level ranging between 80 to 100 ingot tonnes per man year. However, having regard to the existing levels of production, difficulties on the labour front and the best rates achieved so far, productivity near these levels can be attained only progressively over a number of years.

**SHRI P. GANGADEB :** In view of the capacity of utilisation in the public sector

plants going down from 85 per cent three years ago to 58 per cent last year, resulting a net loss of production of over two million tonnes may I know what the Government are going to do about it to restore maximum production at an early date?

**SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM :** The hon. Member is not entirely correct in his figures. The reduction is not to the extent of two million tonnes but far less. It is true of course that productivity is low and we have already explained before this House on a number of occasions that steps are being taken to improve, on the one hand, maintenance and the general working of the plants, and on the other, labour relations which we hope will lead to increase in production.

**SHRI P. GANGADEB :** What are the measures thought of to improve the quality of coking coal and expansion of washery facilities both of which have proved to be obstruction to production in the integrated steel plants?

**SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM :** I would ask for notice on a question like that.

**SHRI P. GANGADEB :** May I know when the Government are expected to complete the setting up of the soaking pits to enable the Durgapur steel plant to achieve the rated capacity of over one million tonnes of ingots?

**SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM :** I am afraid I have to ask for notice again.

#### *Opposition to Appointment of Wage Boards*

\*1299. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the Central Trade Union Organisations opposed appointment of more wage Boards ;

(b) whether they have suggested bipartite wage agreements ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) :**

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The views expressed have been noted.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** I should like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that some of the recommendations of the wage board, especially of the electricity industry, have got to be implemented through the State Governments and whether some of the State Governments, especially the U.P. State Government, had modified the wage board recommendations against the interest of the employees there, especially those who are working in the State undertaking, and whether he knows about it and if so, what is his reaction ?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) :** So far as the modification part is concerned, I have no information. Wage boards being non-statutory, we are not in a position to enforce them except through the method of persuasion and that persuasion also will have to be carried out by the State Government.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** He has not followed my question. In this case modification of the wage board recommendation has been done by the State, not by the State, not by the private sector people, against the employees of their own undertaking, State undertaking like the KESA and others, without consultation with the Center. What is he going to do about that.

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR :** If modification in a wage board award for a particular State industry is made, in respect of a wage board appointed by the State and if the matter is brought to our notice certainly we shall take whatever measure is possible. To my mind it is not within our purview to take any further steps in that direction.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Now that the Central trade union organisations like the ITUC, CITU, Hind Mazdoor Sabha and others with the exception of INTUC are all tired of these wage boards, the recommendations of which are never implemented, I

would like to know whether in future no wage board will be appointed and it will be left to the parties concerned to have a negotiated settlement without Government interference and police interference ?

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR :** The experience of the wage boards is not such. Even the hon. Member will admit that it has done some good work in several industries by creating a certain normal procedure for wage fixation. If the hon. Member's suggestion is that henceforth no wage board should be constituted, whether statutory or otherwise, I would like to point out to him that I have got representations for the appointment of a wage board for the *bidi* industry, the man-made fibre industry, the handloom and other industries. I do not know if the hon. Member is making the suggestion on his own or on behalf of some organisation, but I will bear that in mind when such requests come to me later on, and I will also have some argument to meet them.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** That was said out of frustration, and he is saying something else. The Wage Boards are not statutory.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Please do not enter into an argument.

**SHRI RAJA KULKARNI :** If a demand has come for a wage board for the man-made fibre, may I know what the Government has decided about ?

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR :** There was a wage board for the chemical industry, but they did not deal with this because they were in doubt whether this industry should be covered or not. If a proper approach is made, Government will consider the request.

**SHRI P. M. MEHTA :** What are the principal grounds for opposing the wage boards ? It is relevant to the question.

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR :** We are not opposing. We still feel that the wage board machinery has done some good work and workers have benefited.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Part (a) of the question is whether some of the Central

Union Organisations have opposed appointment of more wage boards. He asks, what are the grounds for opposing.

**SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR :** They do not want us to interfere, they say they will deal with the employers. That is the only ground.

Damage of wheat at F.C.I. Godown in Delhi due to unloading

+  
\*1300. **SHRI N. K. SANGHI :**  
**DR. KARNI SINGH :**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 250 truck loads of wheat had to be sent back to Haryana Mandi after they were rain-soaked because they could not be unloaded at the FCI godown in Delhi even after waiting for some days ;

(b) whether a substantial quantity of the foodgrains was damaged making it unfit for human consumption ;

(c) is so, whether any assessment has been made of the losses ; and

(d) what steps have been taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) :** (a) No, Sir.

As a result of work-to-rule agitation by a Section of Food Corporation employees, 276 trucks which had brought wheat from Haryana for Food Corporation of India depots in Delhi could not be unloaded on the 26th and 27th June 1971. Only 126 trucks had to be returned to Haryana but the remaining were unloaded at other storage points in and around Delhi. None of the truck loads of wheat was rain soaked.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

**SHRI N. K. SANGHI :** The hon. Minister has made contradictory remarks. When 126 trucks were returned to Haryana after remaining in Delhi for three days,

they may not be rain-soaked but they would have become moist. And certainly a huge amount of loss has been incurred by the Food Corporation. May I know whether a loss of as much as Rs. 25 lakhs has been incurred ?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :** It is not correct because the trucks were properly covered by tarpaulin. In the rainy season they are normally covered, and these trucks in particular were covered and there was no damage as far as these trucks are concerned.

**SHRI N. K. SANGHI :** The movement of food from the mandis to the various depots is a continuous process and these strikes are taking place from time to time in the Food Corporation. In case strikes take place in future, have you thought of any alternative arrangements to see that there is no loss sustained ?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :** We have given considerable thought to this problem. This year, the problem came in a very big way, because the magnitude of procurement was very big. But all the same, we tried to meet the situation and reduce the losses to the minimum. Storage, transport coordination, etc. were all looked into and we made arrangements to see that the foodgrains were properly covered, even if it was in the open.

**श्री रामबन्धु बिकल :** 126 ट्रक दिल्ली जाए और लौट गए। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उनके जाने का और जाने का क्या कारण था ?

**अध्यक्ष सहोदय :** दिल्ली तो सभी जाते हैं।

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :** In my main reply, I have explained the whole position.

**Farmers Trade Union Organisation**

\*1301. **SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Government's policy regarding the healthy growth of a Farmers Trade Union Organisation in this country ; and