

opposed the move to fix a uniform price of cement;

(b) whether any protest in this behalf has been sent to Government by the units in Southern Zone;

(c) whether units in other States have also opposed this move; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) No, Sir. A uniform ex-works price of Rs. 100 per tonne is already in operation from 16th April, 1969.

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

Foreign Experts in Steel Plants

*762. SHRI LOBO PRABHU: Will

the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign experts and their annual costs separately for each Steel Plant in the public sector and private sector;

(b) the average rates of pay without reference to the categories, in each of the Plants; and

(c) the programme for training Indians to replace the foreign experts and when the replacement is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. M. POONACHA): (a) The number of foreign technicians and annual expenditure thereon for steel plants in the Public and Private Sector are indicated below:—

Hindustan Steel Ltd.	No. of foreign technicians on Operation/Maintenance as on 31-12-68	Expenditure during 1968-69
1. Bhilai Steel Plant	43	Rs. 27.30 lakhs
2. Durgapur Steel Plant	2	Rs. 1.57 lakhs
3. Rourkela Steel Plant	81	Rs. 118.51 lakhs

There are at present no foreign technicians in the Tata Iron and Steel Company.

There are at present seven foreign experts in the Indian Iron and Steel Co. and their total annual cost comes to Rs. 6,94,000.

(b) The average rate of pay on the basis of an employee in each category works out as under:

Bhilai Steel Plant	Rs. 4102 p.m.
Rourkela Steel Plant	Rs. 9016 p.m.
Durgapur Steel Plant	Rs. 10,000 p.m.
Indian Iron & Steel Co.	Rs. 6,096 p.m.

(c) There is a regular system of placing under-studies to all foreign technicians/specialists in the Steel Plants under Hindustan Steel. Most of the technicians are presently employed in connection with the Operation and Maintenance of the expansion units

of the Plants. It is expected that with stabilised production in the new units in the next one or two years, it would not be necessary to have more than a very small number of experts for some critical positions. As regards Indian Iron and Steel Co., three of the seven foreign experts are likely to retire by 1973.

सीमेंट के मूल्य और वितरण पर से नियंत्रण हटाया जाना

*763. श्री रघवीर सिंह शास्त्री :
श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी :

क्या औद्योगिक विकास, आन्तरिक व्यापार तथा समवाय-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने जनवरी, 1970 से सीमेंट के मूल्यों और वितरण पर से सब