

of my question at least may be replied to.

Mr. Speaker: I have gone on to the next item, I am sorry.

# WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

## Bokaro Steel Project

\*321. Shri Sezhiyan: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement with the Soviet Government has been finalised on the construction of the Bokaro Steel Project;

(b) if so, the cost of each stage of the project; and

(c) the extent of reduction in cost as compared to the original project report submitted by Soviet experts?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-310/67].

## Export of coal to Japan

\*325. Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Dr. P. Mondal:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a panel for exploring possibilities of export of coal to Japan and other countries;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the panel; and

(c) the expectations regarding the export of coal and the grades that can be made available for earning foreign exchange?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) to (c). The Study Group for exports of Coal had, inter alia recommended the setting up of a small Standing Group to report

to the Government as to which are the collieries and coals that may be projected for exports, in particular to Japan, and the probable impact of the export of prime coking coal (Grade A to C) on steel plants. The Government have accepted the recommendation and have constituted a Standing Group consisting of:—

- (i) Coal Controller .. Chairman
- (ii) Deputy Regional Manager, .. Member  
M.M.T.C., Calcutta.
- (iii) Coal Mining Adviser, .. Member  
Department of Mines & Metals
- (iv) A representative of the .. Member  
Department of Iron & Steel.

The recommendations of the Study Group and the views of concerned Departments of Government on the different grades and qualities of coal for export are under examination by the Government.

## Development of Mining of Minerals

\*326. Dr. P. Mondal:

Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for providing financial assistance for the development of mining of minerals; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to allow mortgage of mining leases for loans from banks and other financial institutions?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) The existing institutions for providing financial assistance to the mining industry are Industrial Finance Corporation, the finance corporations of the State Governments and the scheduled banks. The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited are also granting loans to certain mine owners against contracts for supply of ore for purchase of mining machinery/equipment and to provide for development of mines, construction of approach roads and private rail tracks