

**Strike in Hindustan Machine Tools,
Hyderabad**

*498, SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any strike in the Unit of the Hindustan Machine Tools at Hyderabad in the month of January, 1970 : and

(b) the extent of loss suffered by the Hindustan Machine Tools due to this strike ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) The workers of the Hyderabad Unit of Hindustan Machine Tools were on strike for a period of 15 days from 8-1-1970 to 22-1-1970.

(b) The production loss during the strike period is estimated to be about Rs 15 lakhs.

Increase in prices of H.M.T. Watches

*499. SHRI TULSI DAS JADHAV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd., has recently made an increase in the prices of watches ;

(b) if so, the extent of increase made ;

(c) the justification therefore ;

(d) whether Government propose to bring the prices of watches to their previous level ; and

(e) if so, when and, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Five per cent.

(c) In view of the substantial increase in wage cost arising out of settlement with labour as also the rise in the cost of raw materials, the Company found it necessary to increase the selling prices of Watches.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) For the reasons given against part (c) above, the prices of watches produced by Hindustan Machine Tools cannot be brought down to the previous level.

Shortage of Pig Iron

*500, SHRI P. C. ADICHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaints have lately been received as regards the shortage of pig iron and, if so, the nature thereof ;

(b) the present production and requirements of pig iron per year and by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan ; and

(c) whether any abuses in the distribution system have come to Government's notice and, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the distribution system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Some occasional complaints about short supply of pig iron have been received from Gujarat, Maharashtra, U.P. and Punjab.

(b) Production of seleable pig iron, both basic and foundry grade, during the period from April to December, 1969, was 0.9 million tonnes. The requirement for 1969-70 was estimated at 1.00 million tonne. The production capacity at the end of the 4th Year Plan as per the estimates of the Steering Group on Iron and Steel is likely to be of the order of 3.8 million tonnes while demand, including export requirements, could be of the order of 3 million tonnes.

(c) A procedure was devised by the Joint Plant Committee in consultation with the Foundry Industry for regulating the despatches of pig iron as from 20-8-1969. There were complaints that under the system, the foundries which were established in 1964-65 were getting a raw deal. It was, therefore, decided that despatches to such foundries should also be made on the basis of best despatches during 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69. The Chairmen of the two Foundry Associations feel that this system has worked well. Government is, however, thinking of ways and means to improve production of pig iron so that more may be available for distribution.