

(c) whether Government have accepted the West German offer for this purpose and, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c). The Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of West Germany visited India in February, 1970. No discussions were held with him regarding the expansion of the Rourkela Steel Plant.

Soviet Supplies for Bokaro Steel Plant

* 708. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH: Will the Minister of STEEL and HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the progress report of the Bokaro Steel Plant brought out in January, 1970, extracts from which were published in the *Hindu* of the 30th January, 1970 under the caption, "Soviet Promise to Expedite Supplies for Bokaro";

(b) whether it is a fact that against a target of 10,066 tonnes of structurals, only 3,700 tonnes of structurals were received by the Bokaro Steel Plant by January 1970 and that the structurals received were also not in the sequence in which they were required;

(c) if so, the reasons for such delays and details of the steps taken by Government to ensure that there would be no such delay in future; and

(d) whether the Bokaro Steel Plant would be completed at least as per the revised schedule and, if so, the date by which it is now expected to be commissioned and the expected total cost for the completion of its first stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In accordance with Contract No. 7622-OC between Bokaro Steel Limited and the Soviet organisation 'Tiajpromexport' the USSR Organisation has to complete supply of 17,708 tonnes of steel structures by July, 1970. All these steel structures are required for the Steel Melting Shop. Till

the end of January, 1970, 6,900 tonnes and not 3,700 tonnes had been received from USSR. It is, however, true that these have not been received in the sequence in which they are required for erection.

(c) Bokaro Steel Limited have already taken up the matter with the USSR suppliers for expediting the supplies. The shipments have since improved, and upto the end of February, 1970, 8,100 tonnes of steel structures have been received from USSR, and shipping advices for another 1,400 tonnes have been received.

(d) According to the revised schedule, the erection of first blast furnace complex has to be completed by December, 1971, and the entire stage-I by March, 1973. Total cost for completion of first stage is now estimated at about Rs. 7,600 million by Bokaro Steel Limited.

Amendment of Representation of the People Act regarding six-year Disqualification of a Candidate

* 709. SHRI MAYAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision to remove the clause regarding six-year disqualification of any candidate found guilty of indulging in corrupt practices under the Representation of the People Act;

(b) if so, when it is likely to take effect; and

(c) whether the removal of this clause will help to encourage the corrupt practices followed in the elections?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI GOVINDA MENON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Amount of Commission Paid by M/s. A. H. Wheeler and Co.

* 710. SHRI DEVEN SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of commission paid by M/s. A. H. Wheeler and Company for