

in April, 1969 by about Rs. 150/- per tonne. Since then the paper industry has been asked not to increase the prices further without prior consultation. However, of late there have been increases reported in the price of certain varieties of paper. In order to meet the situation a Crash Programme to augment the production of existing units has been organised. Licences for expansion of existing capacities have also been granted. New Capacities both under Public and Private sectors have also been approved. The Adhoc Committee on Paper Industry is also trying to discipline the production pattern, prices and distribution of paper.

Setback to Industrial Development in West Bengal

*736. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during the rule of two United Front Governments in 1967 and 1969, different policy matters as also labour troubles caused serious setback to fresh investment, expansion and growth of industries in West Bengal ;

(b) if so, whether Government had set up any Committee of Economic Industrial Experts to go into the causes of such setback ;

(c) if not, whether Government now propose to draw out a plan of economic recovery of West Bengal after making a realistic appraisal of the economic crisis facing the State ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) to (d). In the last 2-3 years, a number of factors including difficult labour-management relations and recessionary conditions certain industrial sectors have contributed to a slowing down of industrial growth in West Bengal. The State Government have, from time to time, made a number of appraisals to examine the reasons for the slowing down of industrial growth and to take remedial measures. In particular,

the situation in textile mills as well as the problems involved in the revival of sick and closed mills have been gone into by departmental committees. The Government of West Bengal have been reviewing the position and taking certain steps to create conditions for a more stable and rapid industrial growth. Recently, a package of incentives for industrial growth has been announced by the West Bengal Government. Certain schemes for financial assistance for the reconstruction of sick and closed units are also under consideration.

Distribution of Molten Slag to Firms by Hindustan Steel Limited

*737. SHRI S. KUNDU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether distribution of molten slag to different firms had been completed recently by the Hindustan Steel Limited ;

(b) if so, to which firms the slags have been distributed and the nature of contract entered with them ;

(c) whether Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa tendered for the molten slag and if so, whether they were granted the contract ; and

(d) if not, the reason thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir. Arrangements for the sale of molten slag from Rourkela Steel Plant and Durgapur Steel Plant have been recently made by Hindustan Steel Limited.

(b) Contract for the supply of slag from Durgapur Steel Plant has been entered into with M/s. Birla Jute Manufacturing Company. The contract is for the supply of 4,00,000 tonnes of molten slag per annum and the duration of the contract is 40 years. For the slag from Rourkela, a letter of intent has been issued to M/s. Orissa Cement Limited, Rajgangpur. The finalisation of the contract is under discussion.