

Telephone system in Durgapur

553. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telephone system at Durgapur in west Bengal is not functioning properly; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The services at Durgapur have not deteriorated. However, as a normal measure for effecting better service overhauling of exchange plants and rehabilitation of subscribers' installations have been taken up.

Shortage of power and coal in the Durgapur Steel Plant

554. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Durgapur Steel Plant is facing a crisis on account of shortage of power and coal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the DVC have not fulfilled their commitment in regard to the supply of power to the Plant; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) Shortage of power and good coal has been posing problems for Durgapur Steel Plant.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The problems are being taken up and pursued with the appropriate agencies.

Migration of labour to other States

*555. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ban the inter-State movement of labour taken by contractors from one State to another State on cheap wages; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b) The Compact Committee appointed by the Ministry of Labour some time ago to go into the question of Dadan Labour of Orissa and to suggest measures for eliminating abuses of this system has recommended suitable legislation for such inter-State migrant workers. The matter is being examined in consultation with the State Governments and other interests concerned. The current endeavour is to eliminate, to the extent possible, the abuses of the system through administrative and legislative measures, and not to abolish it as such, as it might adversely affect the employment and earnings of such workers.

Strike by the Workers of the Rourkela Steel Plant

556. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 300 workers in the Pipe Plant Unit of the Rourkela Steel Plant recently went on strike against the suspension order served on two workers by the management; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to withdraw the suspension orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 300 workers of