

During the current financial year, domestic demand of saleable steel as projected by the Working Group on Iron and Steel is estimated at 7.61 million tonnes and for pig iron at 0.945 million tonnes.

(b) According to the production plan drawn up by SAIL, 1.541 million tonnes of pig iron will be available from the integrated steel plants. As regards saleable steel, production from the integrated steel plants and the mini-steel plants is expected to be about 9 million tonnes during the current financial year.

(c) Though overall availability of steel is expected to be in excess of the demand, there might be shortfalls in certain categories which would be made up through imports.

(d) Government has no intention to delay the establishment of the proposed steel plant at Visakhapatnam. The Detailed Project Report on the plant submitted by the consultants to SAIL in October, 1977 is under consideration. Pending the scrutiny of the Report, preliminary works like land acquisition, soil investigation, raw materials testing, etc., have been going on. Further progress on these is expected to be achieved during this year. Details are being worked out for taking investment decisions on establishment of the steel plant.

Strike by the Workers of Mica Factories

1358. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) since when the workers in mica factories in Giridih in Bihar are on strike and what is the number of workers involved therein;

(b) what are their demands; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to resolve the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR

(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) to (c) The matter falls essentially in the State Sphere. According to available information the strike by workers of Mica factories in Giridih which was resorted to from June 14, 1978 in support of their main demand relating to upward revision of wages has been called off on July 12, 1978 following the intervention of the State Industrial Relations Machinery.

Construction of a Hospital for Colliery Workers at Chandrapur

1359. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made in the construction of a hospital for the colliery workers at Chandrapur in Maharashtra; and

(b) what is the expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) and (b) Preliminary drawings for the construction of the proposed hospital are presently under scrutiny. This is expected to be completed soon and thereafter, the estimates will be formulated by C.P.W.D. It is not therefore, possible to indicate the precise expenditure involved at this stage.

Functioning of the Wage Board for Journalists and Non-Journalists

1360. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of representatives of newspaper managements, journalists and non-journalists was held on the 22nd July, 1978 to end the deadlock in the functioning of Wage Boards;

(b) if so, what are the names of the persons present at the meeting and

what decisions were taken thereat; and

(c) by when the Wage Boards are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) Yes.

(b) The meeting was attended by the representatives of the following organisations:—

Employers

(i) The Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society.

(ii) The All India Small and Medium Newspapers Association.

(iii) Indian Languages Newspapers Association.

Employees

(iv) Indian Federation of Working Journalists.

(v) All India Newspaper Employees Federation.

(vi) National Union of Journalists.

It was decided that if suggestions received so far were not acceptable to employers, they would send alternative proposals before the 30th July, 1978.

(c) Efforts are being made to see that the Wage Boards resume functioning soon.

Day-time S.T.D. Service from Nagpur to Delhi

1361. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government propose to provide S.T.D. service during the day-time from Nagpur to Delhi; and

(b) what are the details of the programme for extending S.T.D. service to other cities during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Full time STD service between Nagpur and Delhi is expected to be provided towards the end of the current Rolling Plan.

(b) STD is programmed to be provided between Nagpur and the following stations within next two years:

Ahmedabad, Amraoti, Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Pune, Raipur and Surat.

Setting up of an Aluminium Project at Ratnagiri

1362. SHRI KRISHNARAO NARAYAN DHULAP: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an aluminium project was proposed to be located in the Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Maharashtra Government have spent a large sum in purchasing land for the proposed project near Ratnagiri town; and

(c) what are the causes that came in the way of the Government in taking a decision to locate the proposed project in Ratnagiri District?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In April 1974 Government approved the setting up of an aluminium project at Ratnagiri. However it has not been possible to implement the project so far due to financial constraints.