

(c) to (e) An Inquiry Committee set up at the plant level has already-submitted its report. Further course of action will be decided after the report of this Inquiry Committee has been examined.

Taking over of mines run in unscientific Manner

*595. SHRI S. KUMARAN:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take over the control, of mines which are being run in an unscientific manner,

(b) whether any steps are being taken to identify such mines; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) There is no such proposal pending before the Govt.

(b) and (c) The Indian Bureau of Mines carries out regular inspections to prevent unscientific mining and to ensure planned development of mines. Suggestions for systematic development of mineral deposits are sent to mine owners. Directives are also issued in cases of infringement of the rules relating to mineral conservation and development and when serious violations remain unrectified, prosecutions are also launched. There is, however, no provision under the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957, to take over management of mines which are being run in an unscientific manner.

Agitation by the Bhilai Steel Plant Officers' Association

*596 SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the

Bhilai Steel Plant Officers' Association has been resorting to relay fasts since June, 1978;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the grievances of the Association; if so, with what results; and

(d) what remedial measures Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) Bhilai Steel Plant Officers' Association had resorted to a relay hunger strike from June 17, 1978 till June 28, 1978.

(b) The agitation was over a list of 29 demands relating to issues like promotion, incentive bouns and allowances, pay, hospital facility, etc.

(c) and (d) The management and the Officers' Association in discussion held on June 27, 1978 agreed that pending issues would be resolved within an agreed time-bound programme. It was also agreed that further meetings would be held with the officers Association to discuss matters concerning the officers. It was further agreed that normalcy would be restored and all efforts would be made to maintain harmony and discipline, as well as improving production.

Surplus machinery and steel at the Bokaro Steel Plant

*597. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN: SHRI DAYANAND SAHAY A: SHRI SITARAM KESRI;

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details and value of the surplus machinery and steel at the Bokaro Steel Plant; and

(b) what steps Government have taken for the disposal or utilisation of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) As on 1-8-1978, there was no surplus machinery at the Bokaro Steel Plant; however, a surplus of approximately 15,000 tonnes of steel (mainly structural and flat products) valued at Rs. 30 crores was held by the Plant.

(b) As Bokaro expansion project is still under implementation, holding of some surplus steel is sometimes unavoidable, so that there is no hold up in construction work. Bokaro management is however, constantly reviewing internal requirements of steel and based on this review action is being taken to dispose off the excess stock.

Supply of iron and steel to the co-operative sector

*593. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:
SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODAR
A MENON:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 479 "given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st July, 1978 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at present the Steel Authority of India is not supplying any iron and steel to the co-operative sector;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to direct the Steel Authority of India to earmark and supply a sizeable quantity of iron and steel to the co-operative sector; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): ~ (a) to (c) There is at present no statutory control on the supply and distribution of any category of iron and steel. However, the producers give priority to actual users in the matter of supply of materials and the co-operative sector also gets such priority when they indent for materials as actual users.

Defence measures by the Asian Organisations against racial violence in U.K.

*599. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPA-YEN:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a new report which appeared in the Times of India of the 17th July, 1978 "that the effect that the Asian organisations in U.K. have decided to take defensive measures against the racial violence there; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPADEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is reported that some Asians living in U.K. had proposed to set up self-defence or "vigilante" groups to meet the threat of racial attacks. It is not known whether any such groups have actually been set up. Government of India have through their High Commission in London, always advised Indians living in the U.K. to promote racial harmony and avoid any action which might draw adverse attention to them. The formation of vigilante groups would, in our view, exacerbate racial tension and harm the interests of the Indian Community.

*600. [Transferred to the 17th August, 1978.]