

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SURHDEV PRASAD): (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Limited had commissioned the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited, for a pre-investment feasibility study for the possible expansion of the Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur only. Only after this feasibility study is completed can the matter be considered in the light of recommendations and other factors.

Paradeep Port

433. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Paradeep Port is in urgent need of at least two more cargo berths to cope with the fast increasing traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRI-VEDI): (a) to (c) The need for additional cargo berths at Paradip Port has to be established on the basis of availability of adequate traffic. Paradeep Port Trust have submitted a proposal for the construction of one more general cargo berth at an estimated cost of Rs. 8.47 crores. This proposal is under examination

Workers of Jharia coal mines suffering from lung diseases

434. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sample survey conducted in the Jharia Coal Mines has revealed that about 8 per cent of the miners have lung diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken by Government to control such diseases affecting the miners; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct such surveys in other mines also to detect the diseases affecting the miners?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) According to a health survey of workers in Jharia Coal Mines conducted by the Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, the incidence of 'Pneumoconiosis' due to coal dust was found to be around 8 per cent.

(b) The important findings of this survey are as follows: —

(i) Chronic Bronchitis	2.66 per cent
(ii) Anaemia	4L97 >>
(iii) Hook form Infestation	43.9 <
(iv) Tuberculosis of lungs	7-46 "

Apart from the precautionary measures laid down in the Coal Mines Regulations which include suppression of dust with water within 90 metres of working faces and better standards of ventilation, the Director General of Mines Safety has recently laid down the standards of dustiness in a circular issued to the industry. The mine managements have been advised to establish Occupational Health Service Units in accordance with the recommendations of the Third Conference on Safety in Mines. A short term specialised course on pneumoconiosis was organised by the Directorate