

necessary in bunker surcharge, some shipping companies had been levying bunker surcharge at the rate of Rs. 27.15 per freight tonne, presumably on the basis of terms/agreements between them and the parties concerned. The question of refunding the excess collected, if any, would, therefore, be primarily a matter between the two parties.

Working of Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant

*649. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI: SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government decided in November, 1972 to appoint a group of experts to take a second look into the product-mix of Durgapur Alloy Steel Plant for the purpose of making the plant a viable unit and for its expansion for production of stainless steel;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the expert group submitted its report in May, 1973 and recommended a specific product-mix after expansion; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) It was decided in November, 1972 that a group of experts should re-examine the question of the product-mix of the scheme of expansion of the Alloy Steel Plant. Durgapur with special reference to whether the

plant could be made a viable unit with the present product-mix and the one decided upon earlier for expansion and whether any modification in the expansion product-mix was necessary.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The entire question of expansion of the plant is under examination in the context of the availability of resources during the Fifth Plan period for the various steel projects and the *inter-se* priority of the various schemes. It would also be necessary to achieve first a reasonable level of production as compared to capacity to the plant.

Pitiable conditions of labour in Mehrauli

*650. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: SHRI V. K. SAKHLECHA; SHRI S. C. ANGRE: SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: SHRI O. P. TYAGI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in the 'Hindustan Times' of the 31st August, 1974 to the effect that 500 labourers working on the farms of some influential persons at Mehrauli are in a pitiable condition and that they are not being paid even the minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act;

(b) if so, what are the names of the owners of those farms; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE! MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) to (c). According to information received from Delhi Administration, who