

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) Mechanisation of coal mining can lead to increased production only under certain conditions. Labour can substitute for machines to a large extent, and as such it would not be correct to say that there has been a big loss of production due to lack of mechanisation. For similar reasons, it is also not possible to quantify the additional production which could have been possible in the last two years, if there had been a greater extent of mechanisation.

(b) To the extent considered necessary, after an overall assessment of the benefits and costs, a programme of gradually increasing the extent of mechanisation is being implemented.

Coal Production Target for 1974-75.

733. SHRI B. D. BARMAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal production target for 1974-75 has been fixed as 95 million tonnes as against 78 million tonnes during 1973-74;

(b) if so, what measures have been taken to improve the production; and

(c) what will be the likely production during the first six months of the year 1974-75 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) The production of coal during 1974-75 was earlier programmed at 95 million tonnes but according to a recent assessment the production is likely to be of the order of 88 million tonnes.

(b) The measures taken to improve production are intensive working of the open cast mines and the mechanised underground mines, timely procurement of the needed equipment, rationalisation and re-organisation of the transport facilities including centralisation of loading ensuring uninterrupted power supply, expansion of existing mines, arrangements for adequate supply of iron and steel, explosives and other materials.

(c) The production during the first six months of 1974-75 is 40.56 million tonnes.

Request for help from Scientists of Indian Origin in U.S.A.

734. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Ambassador in U. S. A. recently convened a meeting of prominent scientists and technicians of Indian origin to assist India in the field of modern technology; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI T. A. PAT) : (a) and (b)

37 Scientist of Indian Origin and of outstanding ability in different disciplines who are more or less settled in U. S. A. and from the Eastern ; Board of U.S.A. were invited for the meeting. The meeting was divided into 5 panels, dealing with Agriculture, Energy and Natural Resources, Physical Sciences, Electronics and Health and Social Sciences. The consensus was that Indian scientists in U.S.A. could help in evolving solutions to problems of scientific and technical nature which Indian economy is facing and a procedure could be adopted for utilising the expertise of Indian Scientists.

Indian Refractory Industry

735. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY : SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Steel Ltd. has asked the refractory industry to absorb the increased cost of production and not to demand higher prices from the Indian Steel Industry and whether it is also a fact that the refractory industries are themselves making considerable profit by increasing the prices of their products ranging from 9 per cent to 27 per cent over and above the prices fixed in 1973; and

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to set up a refractory unit at Bhilai ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA) : (a) The Steel Plants under Hindustan Steel Ltd. generally enter into annual contracts with various

indigenous manufacturers for supply of refractories. These do not normally contain any provision for price escalation. Some of the refractory suppliers made requests for increase in prices against the pending orders, and such requests were not acceded to. In the current contracts for 1974-75 for supply of refractories, price escalation clause has been provided. The price increase in the current contracts as compared to prices of previous year is between 7 per cent and 30 per cent depending upon the type of refractories and the quality.

(b) Messrs. Bhilai Steel Ltd. have been granted a Letter of Intent dated the 28th January, 1974 for the manufacture of Fireclay Refractories, Silica Refractories and Basic Refractories for a total capacity of 1,10,000 tonnes per annum. A detailed Project Report for the installation of the Refractory Plant at Bhilai has been prepared by the Central Engineering and Designs Bureau (now MECON) of Hindustan Steel Ltd. This is under the consideration of Government.

Selection Grade Posts in Class III and IV Cadres of P. AT. Deptt.

736. SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have accepted sir; employees demand for the creation of promotional avenues by providing Selection Grade Posts on higher scale of pay in all the Class III and Class IV cadres on the basis of length of service as per Third Pay Commission's recommendations;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter;

(c) whether the proposal for immediately providing Selection Grade posts in the cadre of the Lower Division Clerks to promote these L.D.Cs. who have reached the maximum of the scale and are stagnating is under Government's consideration; and

(d) if so, by when the final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Third Pay Commission had recommended creation of Selection Grade Posts to provide more promotional avenues in certain Class III and Class IV cadres which fulfilled a

I number of conditions. In pursuance of these necessary orders have been issued.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration in the Posts and Telegraphs.

Inquiry into Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi

737. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No. 652 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 1974 and state:

(a) whether Government have since completed the enquiry into Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA) : (a) and (b) The National Textile Corporation have examined the allegations contained in a memorandum submitted by Union leaders. It was found that the allegations relating to embezzlement or malpractices by certain officers could not be substantiated. Other points in the memorandum relate to purely administrative details on which the National Textile Corporation have taken necessary action.

Industries in Manipur

738. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI : ,
SHRI I. T. SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the industries Government propose to set up in Manipur during Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the assistance so far given by the Central Government to industries in Manipur ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA) : (a) In the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan, there is no proposal to set up any industry in the Central Sector in Manipur. In the State Sector, however, an outlay of Rs. 8.48 crores—Rs. 3.83 crores for "large & medium industries" and Rs. 4.65 crores for "village & small scale industries" has been included in the Draft Fifth Plan. Some of the important industries for which outlays have been provided in the Draft Fifth Plan are (i) Paper Mills (bamboo based and