

like sulphuric acid, cadmium etc. The project is intended to be set up in two equal stages. The Company is at present collecting data on availability of infra-structure facilities for the smelter so as to take up preparation of a feasibility report. Details regarding cost of the scheme and time schedule for commencement of production will be available only after the feasibility report has been prepared.]

Take-over of C.P. Manganese Ore Company Limited

1295. SHRI S.W. DHABE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to nationalise Manganese Ore India Limited by taking over the 49 per cent shares of C.P. Manganese Ore Company Limited, and make it a subsidiary of SAIL; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA HANSDA) : (a) and (b) An offer was received from Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company Ltd. of U.K. for purchase by Government of the shares in Manganese Ore (India) Ltd. held by them. After considering the offer it has been decided to turn it down on the terms proposed by C.P. M.O. Co. Ltd.

Wages paid in Manganese Ore Ltd.

1296. SHRI S.W. DHABE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers in Manganese Ore India Limited are paid Rs. 4 per day (all inclusive), which are the lowest emoluments paid to an employee in a public sector industry in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and the steps Government have taken to put them at par with those in coal or steel industries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA HANSDA) : (a) From August 1973 the statutory minimum wages in the manganese industry fixed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment were revised upwards as follows :—

Category	Rate	per day
Unskilled workers	Rs.	4.00
Semi-Skilled workers	„	5.33
Skilled workers	„	8.00

(b) Wages have been notified by the Ministry of Labour and Employment under the Minimum Wages Act after taking into account all relevant factors.

Air Compressors at Khetri Copper Project

1297. SHRI B.S. SHEKHAWAT :
SHRI PRAKASH VIR SHASTRI :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that one set of SLM Manek Lal Air Compressors costing rupees 7 lakhs at Khetri Copper Project has been declared defective and unserviceable; and

(b) whether any action has been taken in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Initially SLM Manek Lal Air Compressor did not function satisfactorily and the payment to the manufacturers was withheld. The manufacturers have since rectified the defects and the compressor is now working satisfactorily.

Bharat Electronics Ltd.

1298. SHRI SHYAM LAL GUPTA :
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the sale of electronic equipments manufactured by the Bharat Electronics Ltd. has shown an increase of 22 per cent as compared to that in the previous year;

(b) if so, whether there has also been an increase in the profit;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the margin of profit so as to bring down the sale price of its products; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The sales of Bharat Electronics Ltd.