

Durgapur Steel Plant

*367. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA:

SHRI ROSHAN LAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Durgapur Steel Plant is getting supply of coking coal with abnormally high ash content beyond the capacity of its washery, and if so, how far it has affected the quantity and quality of production; and

(b) what is the present break even of plant of the declared capacity and whether Government propose to consider suitable orientation of product mix to bring down the break even point?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) It is not a fact that Durgapur Steel plant is getting Coking Coal with an ash content beyond the capacity of its Washery. The ash content of the coal received by all washeries including Durgapur Steel Plant's washery has sometimes been about 1% higher than in previous years due to lower seams being worked.

(b) On the basis of the prices and costs prevailing in the relevant period, the break even point of Durgapur Steel Plant in 1971-72 and 1972-73 was estimated at a capacity utilisation of 84% and 81% respectively. The product mix of the Steel Plant is dictated by the equipment that is installed and any major re-orientation of product mix will only be possible by installation of major lines or new equipment and putting into disuse some of the existing ones.

Synthetic oil from Raniganj Coal-fields

*368. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: SHRI

LOKANATH MISRA: SHRI

SHYAM LAL GUPTA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a noted geologist Shri P.K. Ghosh submitted a report to Government in 1971 regarding possibility of producing

oil and other by-products from coal in Raniganj coal-field; and

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.D. MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) Shri P.K. Ghosh, who is at present the Coal Controller and Chairman, Coal Board, had submitted a report in 1971, after attending an international symposium organised in South Africa under the aegis of the International Union of Geological Sciences, recommending, among other things, the production of oil and various by-products and intermediates synthetically from coal, as had been successfully done in South Africa.

The Report was examined in the Department of Mines and it was felt that introduction of any coal based complex in India would have to be based on techno-economic consideration peculiar to India and not merely on conditions prevailing in South Africa.

Memorandum submitted by Ispat Kamgar Union, Bokaro

*369. SHRI S. ANAND: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum has recently been submitted to Government on behalf of Ispat Kamgar Union, Bokaro:

(b) if so, what are the broad outlines thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.D. MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir. However, a copy of a letter dated February 26, 1971 addressed by the Bokaro Ispat Kamgar Union to the Deputy Labour Commissioner, Government of Bihar, regarding lockout of Garden Reach Workshop Ltd. was received in the Ministry.

(b) and (c) It is for the State Government to whom the Memorandum is addressed to take necessary action in the matter.