

Statement

(a) The aggregate target of production from the three integrated Steel Plants of Hindustan Steel Ltd. for 1973-74 was 4.55 million tonnes in terms of ingot steel and 3.439 million tonnes in terms of saleable steel. The total actual production during the year came to approximately 3.751 million tonnes of ingot steel and 2.79 million tonnes of saleable steel representing 82.4% and 81.1 % of the target respectively.

(b) The production during 1973-74 has been adversely affected mainly on account of (i) severe power cuts and power interruptions, especially in the period, April to November, 1973, directly affecting production in all plants except Bhilai (ii) inadequate availability of coal, again largely due to power cuts and power interruptions during this period affecting the entire Jharia coal-fields and leading to curtailment in the operation of coal washeries and of coal mining which in turn affected steel production in all the plants; and (iii) intermittent slow down and industrial unrest in the Railways, especially in the South Eastern and Eastern Railways, affecting movement of coal and other raw materials and of finished products thereby necessitating the imposition of drastic cuts on production in keeping with the minimal flow of raw materials. Production was also affected at Durgapur Steel Plant and to some extent at Rourkela Steel Plant on account of disturbed industrial relations.

(c) Close liaison has been established and is being maintained with the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, DVC authorities, the State Governments concerned and the Railways in regard to the Supply of power and rail movement. The position is watched and reviewed constantly.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Going through the statement, I find that after 20 years of its inception, this sector has not become self-sufficient and the country suffers today. I want to know from the Minister whether it is a fact that the target has not been reached because the technocrats are not handling this sector but civilians are handling ?

श्री मुखर्जी प्रसाद : श्रीमन्, एच०एस०ए० के बारे में माननीय सदस्य ने जो अपनी आपत्तियाँ उठाई हैं उस संबंध में मैं एक चीज साफ़ कर देना चाहता हूँ कि हमारा टारगेट सन् 1973-74 में 4.55 मिलियन टन इन-गोट स्टील था और 3.439 साल्यूबल स्टील था जिसमें से हमने

उसका प्रोडक्शन 3.751 मि० टन इनगोट स्टील का किया और 2.79 मि० टन साल्यूबल स्टील का किया। इस प्रकार से हमारा 82.4 और 81.1 परसेंट का अचीवमेंट रहा। इस तरीके से अगर मौजूदा दिक्कतों को देखते हुए माननीय सदस्य ध्यान देंगे तो यह पता चलेगा कि हमारा अचीवमेंट कम नहीं है। फिर भी हमारे सामने दिक्कतें आईं जिनको वजह से हमारा उत्पादन रुका, पावर कट रहा, कोल की कमी रही, इंडस्ट्रियल रिलेशंस में कहीं कहीं कमी आ गई, कुछ हमारी फरनेस के रूफ्स कोलेप्स हो गये, इससे हमारी पैदावार में कमी आ गई।

SHRI T.V. ANANDAN : Is it a fact that the Railway Ministry, for want of steel, are importing wheels and tyres to the tune of Rs. 10 crores worth of foreign exchange ?

SHR K. D. MALAVIYA : We are very much concerned at the fall in production in our steel plants. It has fallen and there is no doubt about it. There are number of reasons for this, technical and others. Government is trying to remove them as far as possible and as soon as it is possible. May be in this year we may be able to register good improvement, but I might appeal to the House and also make my submission that so long as industrial relations do not improve and so long as politicalisation of the trade union movement is not stopped, it is feared that our progress may not be as good as we want it to be.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Development of Chilka Naval Base

*124. SHRIMATI SARASWATI PRADHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to State :

(a) the progress so far made in developing the Chilka naval base in Orisa; and

(b) by when the base is likely to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) The foundation stone for the Boys' Training Establishment was laid by the Prime Minister on 16th October, 1973.

(b) The work on the project is scheduled to commence later this year. The establishment is expected to start functioning in four years' time depending upon availability of the requisite funds during that period.

Reorganisation of Mines Department

*127. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reorganise the Department of Mines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA) : (a) and (b) : In view of the ambitious programmes for the development of Coal Mining and non-ferrous metals industries included in the Fifth Five Year Plan, a scheme for the reorganisation and strengthening of the Department of Mines is being implemented. Apart from an increase in the number of senior officers the chief feature of the scheme is the integration of the Technical Wing of Department of Mines with the main Secretariat by converting the existing technical posts into regular administrative Secretariat posts. The intention is to have a happy blend at all levels of officers drawn from the traditional sources and technical and scientific personnel selected on the basis of their professional knowledge, experience and flair for Secretariat and administrative work.

Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. Bangalore

♦128. SHRI H. S. NARASIAH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what is the percentage of utilisation capacity of the Hindustan Machine Tools factory at Bangalore; and

(b) whether there has been any profit from the sale of HMT products during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) The percentage utilisation of capacity for machine tools units of the Hindustan Machine Tools Limited is about 75%.

(b) Yes, Sir. The profits earned by Hindustan Machine Tools Limited, Bangalore during the last three years are given below ;—

1971-72 .. Rs. 112.11 lakhs

1972-73 .. Rs. 78.00 lakhs

1973-74 .. Rs. 60.00 lakhs (Provisional)

Prime Minister's Visit to Pakistan

*129 SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT :

SHRI GURMUKH SINGH MU-SAFIR :

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI j

SHRI MAHENDRA BAHADUR SINGH :

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA :

SHRI V. B. RAJU :

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE :

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :

SHRI J. S. TILAK :

DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Pakistan has recently invited the Prime Minister of India to visit that country; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India there to ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) While no formal invitation has been received by the Prime Minister to visit Pakistan, there have been informal indications from Pakistan to this effect.

(b) It would be better if favourable conditions for the success of a Summit meeting are first created and there is adequate preparation. For this purpose a substantial implementation of the various normalisation measures envisaged under the Simla Agreement would be helpful.

Restructuring of Coal Mines Authority Ltd.

•130. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN :

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