

Eighteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited for the year 1972-73 and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers :-

(i) Eighteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Industrial Development Corporation Limited, for the year 1972-73, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Corporation.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6273/74 for (i) and (ii)]

Audit Report on the Accounts (1971-72) of the Coir Board, Ernakulam

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (4) of section 17 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Audit Report on the Accounts of the Coir Board, Ernakulam, for the year 1971-72. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6274/74.]

Central Industrial Security Force (First Amendment) Rules, 1974

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F.H. MOHSIN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Home Affairs Notification G.S.R. No. 102 dated the 15th January, 1974, publishing the Central Industrial Security Force (First Amendment) Rules, 1974. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 6246/74]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Threatened closure of steel plants due to inadequate supply of coal

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI (Gujarat): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Steel and Mines to the reported inadequate supply of coal to the steel plants both in public and private sectors leading to

the danger of closure of these plants and the steps taken by Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.D. MALAVIYA) : Sir, the programme of steel production during the current financial year requires an availability of 36,000 tonnes of coking coal daily in all the steel plants taken together. To get this quantity of coal at the steel plants about 2700 wagons of raw coal and washed coal have to be loaded daily from the Bengal-Bihar coal fields. Unfortunately, coal movement during the year did not keep pace with the requirements and on two occasions, in August, 1973 and November, 1973 sudden dislocation of railway services brought down coal stocks at steel plants to dangerously low levels. During December, 1973, the coal supplies to steel plants received a serious setback and as a result coal consumption at the steel plants had to be reduced. With the limited arrivals of coal at the steel plants, the first concern was to ensure the safety of the installations and accordingly the pushing of ovens were cut down so as to conserve the actual coal supplies in hand, although this resulted in reduced production of steel and pig iron.

For the month of January, 1974, the Coal Controller drew up as usual a programme for supply of raw coal to washeries as well as washed and raw coal to steel plants in consultation with the representatives of the mining organisations, steel plants and the railways. This involved the supply of 11.71 lakh tonnes of coking coal to the steel plants, which would have required a daily average loading of 2700 wagons. However, it was possible to maintain a daily average loading of 1533 wagons only during the month. As a result the stock of coal held in different steel plants were depleted from about 1,47,000 tonnes on 1-1-1974 to 1,15,000 tonnes as on 1-2-1974. This happened notwithstanding the pushing of a reduced number of coke ovens in the steel plants even at the cost of loss of production of steel and pig iron.

Towards the end of January, agitations in the Hatia-Bondamunda line resulted in the hold-up of a number of loaded coal rakes moving towards Rourkela and Bhilai. This in turn affected the availability of empty wagons for loading at the collieries and washeries which resulted in a further loss of coal supplies in the other steel plants. At the beginning of February, a section of the Train Examining