

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir:

(b) The possibility of expansion of the capacity of the plant is under examination.

Firms Supplying Defence Equipment to Government

1154. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that equipment and raw material are supplied by private firms to Government for defence services at much higher than the prescribed rates; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to effect economy in Government spending through private firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Bulk of the purchasing is done by the DGS&D on the basis of tender system. As far as possible only the lowest technically acceptable offers are accepted. The DGS&D satisfy themselves about the reasonableness of prices by comparison with the lowest purchase price paid, tenderer's estimated rates and other information available with them. However, it is not possible to identify the quantum of profits made by the supplying firms against DGS&D contracts on Defence account.

The developmental items are procured through the Department of Defence Supplies. Even though comparative rates are available yet the prices are accepted after thorough examination and negotiations by a committee which includes representative of Ministry of Finance, Users, Technical Committees etc.

Savings in the Ministry of Defence on Plan and Non-Plan Items

1185. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) out of 400 crores of Rupees proposed to be saved by Centre because of

present financial stringency, what has been the cut in regard to the Ministry of Defence;

(b) how much cut will be effected in respect of plan items and what would be saving on non-plan items,

(c) the details of the schemes/projects proposed to be deferred on account of this cut; and

(d) when will these be taken up for implementation and the percentage of increase in cost because of the time-lag in implementation?'

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) There is no cut in the Defence budget during 1973-74.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Production of Copper in the Country

1186. SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Copper Limited has formulated a number of schemes for increasing production in mines at the Indian copper complex at Ghatsila (Bihar); and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?'

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The expansion schemes of Indian Copper Complex at Ghatsila include the following:—

(i) A scheme for increasing the rate of production of copper ore at Surda Mine is being taken up.

(ii) A new Concentrator Plant for treating 2000 tonnes of copper ore per day is being set up at the Mosaboni Mine. The Plant is expected to be ready by April, 1974.

(iii) The production of copper ore at Pathargora Mine is being increased from the present rate of 200 tonnes per day to 600 tonnes per day over a period of 2 years.

fiv) The mining methods at the Mosaboni mines are being improved for achieving higher output.

Indo-Nepa) Talks

1187. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY:

SHRI J. P. YADAV: SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that King Birendra of Nepal and the Prime Minister of India had talks at the Delhi Air Port on the 3rd September, 1973; and

fb) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) During King Birendra's stop-over at Palam Airport on 3rd September, 1973, the Prime Minister and the King had a general conversation on matters of mutual interest.

Payment of Cash Bonus

1188. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued instructions for the payment of bonus in cash during the current year:

fb) if so, whether any case violating these instructions has come to the notice of the Government; and

(c) if so, the number of such cases and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, is also being amended to provide that the bonus for the accounting year commencing on any day in the year 1972 should be paid in cash and that if any amount has already been deposited in the provident fund accounts of the employees, it should be refunded.

(b) There has been no report of violation by establishments in respect of which the Central Government is the "Appropriate

Government". Information in regard to the State sphere is not available.

tc) Does not arise.

Small Scale Industries

1189. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

fa) whether the prices of steel supplied to Small Scale Industries has been at par with that of the large scale industrial units;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to (The some) concession in prices to Small Scale Industries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to (c) Prices of iron and steel materials supplied to small scale units are higher only in the case of those categories in which supplies from the steel plants have been channelled through the State Small Industries Corporations. Since steel moves from the plants only in wagons and the minimum wagon load has increased with introduction of newer bulk wagons, not all parties in the small scale sector can secure despatches for wagon loads at a time.

Government have accepted in principle that supplies channelled through the State Small Industries Corporations for these reasons should be available to the units at about the same price as the others getting supplies from the steel plants direct. The manner in which this decision can best be implemented is under examination.

Evaluation of HS 748 (M) Freighter Aircraft

1190. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee was appointed to evaluate the performance of HS 748(M) freighter aircraft;

(b) if so, whether the report of the Committee has since been received; and

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made and the decision taken by Government thereon?