

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have no information to support this newspaper report.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **National Wage Policy**

673. SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has submitted to his Ministry any report on National Wage Policy;

(b) if so, the details of the Report;

(c) whether Government propose to discuss the Report with the various Trade Unions; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BAL GOVIND VERMA) : (a) and (b) A committee headed by Prof. S. Chakravarty Member of the Planning Commission made an interim report on wage policy. The report recommends inter-alia the setting up of a Wage Cell and contains suggestions for a wage policy.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal at this stage.

#### **Misuse of Steel**

674. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :  
SHRI HARSH DEO MALA  
VIYA :

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the news item appearing in the Nav Bharat Times dated the 12th September, 1973 to the effect that one million tonnes of iron worth Rs. 150 crores was lying unutilised

with about 150 steel projects in the country and on the other hand the work on several projects has been suspended for want of steel; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and whether it is proposed to appoint a high-powered committee to look into this affair ?

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

(b) What is stated in the press report is not correct. The position has been kept under constant watch to prevent any large accumulation of inventories with the consumers.

#### **Transportation of Sand to Coal mines**

675. SHRI KALYAN ROY :  
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

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

(a) whether Government propose to transport sand to coal mines for stowing purposes by pipe-lines;

(b) if so, what will be the total cost of laying the pipe-lines and the distance proposed to be covered; and

(c) the details of the progress made in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA HANS-DA) : (a) to (c) Engineers (India) Limited have submitted an offer to Bharat Coking Coal Limited for consultancy services in regard to hydraulic transportation of sand through pipe-lines. The offer is under study. As no feasibility report has been drawn up yet, the cost of the scheme is not known. Some preliminary surveys on the alignment of the proposed pipeline have been conducted.