

financial assistance through the Coal Board from the Government are violating Safety and Conservation Laws; and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the names of coal mines who have received subsidy and assistance in 1971 and 1972 but are being prosecuted by the Director General of Mines Safety for serious violation of various Safety Laws; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA HANSDA): (a) The non-coking collieries which were reported to have violated Safety and Conservation Rules were not paid any subsidy by the Coal Board.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

PRICING POLICY OF STEEL

1671. SHRI J. S. TILAK:

SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH
MUSAFIR:

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:
SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

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

(a) whether pricing policy for steel has been finalised for the existing and coming units; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA HANSDA): (a) and (b). The present steel pricing broadly follows the principles enunciated by the Tariff Commission in 1962, taking into account cost of production, reasonable return, etc., on a 'standard' plant. Subsequent increases in prices were allowed taking into consideration escalations in cost, while the price increase allowed with effect from January 1, 1970, also took into account the financial needs of Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. for its replacement and modernisation programme.

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EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION IN DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT

1672. SHRI M. K. MOHTA:

MISS SAROJ PURUSHOT-
TAM KHAPARDE:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
RAHA:

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

(a) whether Government are examining the feasibility of the programme for expansion of production at Durgapur Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the financial implications of the expansion of the project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA HANSDA): (a) to (c). The Central Engineering and Design Bureau of Hindustan Steel have been commissioned to prepare a detailed feasibility study of expansion of the Durgapur Steel Plant. The details of the possible expansion programme such as capacity, cost, etc., will be available only after the feasibility report is received.

VIGILANCE WORK IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

1673. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) what were the arrangements which existed in the Department of Supply at the level of Joint Secretary to look after the vigilance and purchase work separately before the creation of another post of Joint Secretary; and the reasons for entrusting the vigilance work to the same person after his promotion; and

(b) whether any person has since been selected for the post of D.G., I.S.M., London and if so, the details thereof and the reasons which weighed with Government in the matter of selection and if not, when the decision is likely to be taken in the matter?