81 Written Answers [ 1 SEP. 1972 ]

to Questions

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 to 60 per cent, capacity of the steel rerolling industry is lying idle at present; and if so, the reasons thereof; and

(b) what measures have been contemplated to utilise the full capacity of the industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) Due to insufficient availability of raw materials, viz., steel billets and re-rollable scrap, the steel rerolling units are not in a position to utilise their full capacity. To augment supplies of steel billets, a number of schemes have been licensed for setting up of scrap based electric furnace-cum continuous casting billet making units in the country. Besides, bulk imports of billets are being arranged for distribution by the Billet Rollers Commi” tee to the registered re-rolling units. The supply position of re-rollable scrap is also likely to improve since, out of about two lakh tonnes of used rails being made available by the Railways, about 1,50,000 tonnes are being supplied to Scrap Re-rollers on the condition that the disposal of the re-rolled products will be regulated by the J. P. C.

DHEMO MAIN COLLIERY

1555. SHRI N. K. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Coal Mines Wage Board have been implemented in the DHEMO MAIN colliery, near Asansol;

(b) if not, what are the wages which are being paid to various categories of staff working there; and

(c) what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations of the Wage Board ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) No.

(b) The rates of wages paid by the management to the various categories of Workmen (including piece-rated workers) are to the extent of 75% of the rates recommended by the Wage Board. Dearness allowance also falls short of the amount due under the Wage Boards' recommendations.

(c) The recommendations are not enforceable statutory and implementation is to be secured mainly through persuasion and advice. It may be mentioned that this Colliery was lying closed for a long time from 22.10.68 and has started production again from 3.1.72 with a smaller complement of workers.

INDIAN FISHERMEN HELD IN SRI LANKA

1556. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian fishermen are being detained in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the reasons; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Ministry in this connection?

English translation.