

rated capacity levels as rapidly as possible. These include improved maintenance of plant and equipment, procurement of spares, refractories, locos and other essential materials, speeding up or capital programme required to correct imbalances in production facilities, introduction of technological improvements etc.

Comprehensive market surveys are also being made so as to plan a suitable production programme and for diversifying production.

SUPPLY OF FOOTWEAR TO COAL WORKERS

610. SHRI KALYAN ROY :
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/ **श्रम और पुनर्वास मंत्री** be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 436 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th August, 1969 and state :

(a) whether Government are aware that coal mine owners are violating the Coal Mines Regulations and Safety Rules by refusing to supply protective footwear to the coal workers resulting in serious injuries to the workers;

(b) how many coal mines have supplied footwear in the State and Private Sector since 1969, and the number of workers who received them in 1969, 1970 and 1971, respectively;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Director General of Mines Safety against the colliery owners for such violation of Safety Rules and if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to see that mine workers are immediately supplied with footwear?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/ **श्रम और पुनर्वास मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA)** :
(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House after it is received.

WAGE BOARDS RECOMMENDATIONS

611. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/ **श्रम और पुनर्वास मंत्री**

be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 606 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th November, 1970 and state :

(a) whether the question of making the Recommendations of the Wage Boards statutory has since been examined and what decision has been taken by the Government;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) by when it will be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION/ **श्रम और पुनर्वास मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA)** : (a) to (c) The matter is still under consideration.

REJECTION OF DEMAND OF SMALL CONSUMERS BY THE HINDUSTAN STEEL

612. SHRI ARJUN ARORA :

DR. SALIG RAM :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/ **इस्पात और खान मंत्री** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Steel while rejecting the demand of small consumers ask them to go to alternate source of supply; and

(b) if so, what is the alternate source of supply and how does it fit in with the Government's latest distribution policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES/ **इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN)** :

(a) and (b) Certain Hindustan Steel Ltd., stockyards, when they found themselves unable to meet a particular demand, did suggest in their reply to the applicant that he might try alternate sources also. Alternate sources would be the stockyards of other main producers, or the re-rollers. Since all stockyards follow a uniform distribution policy, whether the supply is from Hindustan Steel Limited stockyards or those of other main producers,