

DECLINING PRODUCTION OF ORE OF LEAD AND ZINC CONCENTRATES

*556. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that production of ore of lead and Zinc concentrates of the Hindustan Zinc Limited are declining; if so, to what extent the administration of the plant is responsible for this ;

(b) whether a large number of contractors have been engaged by the Hindustan Zinc Limited and if so, the names of contractors, the jobs entrusted to them and the amounts paid to each one of them in 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70 and 1970-71, upto April, 1971; and

(c) whether Government propose to eliminate contractors gradually, if not the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्री . (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) It is not a fact that production of ore (combined zinc and lead) and zinc concentrates of the Hindustan Zinc Ltd. is declining. In fact the production record for the last few years indicates an upward trend in the production of ore and concentrates.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Hindustan Zinc Ltd. had to engage contractors in their various units including mines to do essential items of work which could not be undertaken departmentally. A statement showing the names of the contractors, broad jobs entrusted to them and the amount paid to each during 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1970-71 and upto April, 1971 is enclosed. [See Appendix LXXVI, Annexure No. 70].

(c) According to the Hindustan Zinc Ltd. it is not possible to eliminate contractors altogether. As will be seen from the statement, some of the items awarded on contract fall in the category of specialised jobs, like shaft sinking, installation of 2,000 tonnes per day Ball Mill. Other items of work such as construction of residential quarters,

arrangements for the transport, etc. are standardised jobs. It is in the interest of the Company to keep the departmental labour strength to the absolute minimum to reduce the fixed overheads.

PRODUCTION OF STEEL

*559. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) the indigenous production and requirement of steel during the year 1970-71 ;

(b) the quantity of steel imported and the countries from which imports have been made during that year; and

(c) the foreign exchange incurred therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात मंत्री (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The production in 1970-71 of finished steel was about 4.5 million tonnes. The domestic demand, as assessed in 1969 by a Steering Groups set up by the Ministry of Steel & Heavy Engineering, was 5.5 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) Precise information regarding imports during 1970-71 is not yet available. The latest published information available indicates an import of 3.14 lakh tonnes with c.i.f. value of Rs. 58.59 crores during the first 8 months of 1970-71. Imports have taken place mostly from USSR, USA, Japan, UK, West Germany and Hungary.

COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

*560. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE/ कृषि मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to some of the observations made in the sixth Indian Co-operative Congress regarding the bureaucratic influence of vested interests in Cooperative movement; and

(b) if so, what are the reactions of the Government of India thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE/ कृषि मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI JAGAN-NATH PAHADIA) : (a) The draft