

(iii) The decision to treat the period of strike from 10. 5. 70 to 15. 5. 70 as "dies non" was taken after full consideration of all factors.

#### CLEARANCE OF STOCKS WITH HMT

\*159. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :  
 SHRI T. G. DESHMUKH :  
 SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI :  
 SHRI B. S. SAVNEKAR :  
 SHRI S. B. BOBDEY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. is finding it difficult to clear the stocks in the domestic markets resulting in losses ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make structural changes in the administration to promote production, sales and development in all the units controlled by the HMT ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT

\*160. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a strike in the Durgapur Steel Plant recently ;

(b) if so, the causes for the strike ;

(c) the number of man-hours lost during the strike period and the financial loss suffered consequently ;

(d) whether any action has been taken against the employees concerned and if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) whether the Government of India have made any study in regard to its causes ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHAN

S. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) and (b) During the month of February 1971 there were two strikes as mentioned below :

(i) There was strike of the workers led by Hindustan Steel Workers Union (a non-recognised union) in the Blast Furnace Complex at Durgapur Steel Plant from 8th February to 14th February 1971, demanding upgradation of Crane Drivers, fresh incentive scheme, relaxation of minimum educational qualification bar for the purpose of promotion of workers, etc.

(ii) Coke Oven Workers suddenly stopped work from 2.30 P. M. on 19. 2. 71 to 20. 2. 71 demanding reinstatement of a worker of the Coke Ovens Department, who was dismissed from service a year ago.

(c) The number of manhours lost during the two strikes was 78,400 and 14,733 respectively. A report on the financial loss suffered is awaited from Hindustan Steel Ltd.

(d) No action has been taken against the workers, as the strikes were called off on the basis of agreements reached between the management and workers.

(e) These are matters within the purview of the management of Hindustan Steel Limited.

#### PROGRAMME FOR INDUSTRIALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS

\*161. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to refer to the answer to the Unstarred Question on 36 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th November, 1970 and state :

(a) whether any special programme has so far been taken up for execution for those industrially backward districts ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?