

necessitated interpretation and as provided for in the agreement, clarification was sought from the Labour Commissioner, Bihar, both by the management and the recognised union. After a number of discussions, the Labour Commissioner gave his interpretation on 13th October, 1970. This envisages further bipartite discussions between the Management and the Recognised Union on the question of fixation of pay in the revised scale of pay and the payment of dearness allowance. These discussions are now being held and are expected to be finalised shortly.

SCOOTER FACTORY IN PUBLIC SECTOR IN WEST BENGAL

*681 SHRI M. V BHADRAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a scooter factory in public sector in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Government have decided to set up a unit in the public sector for the manufacture of scooters, based on a proven foreign design. In pursuance of this decision, offers for collaboration for the manufacture of a scooter of proven design have been invited from interested parties in foreign countries. These are awaited. The question of location of the proposed plant will be considered after the model of the scooter to be taken up for manufacture and the foreign collaborator have been selected.

STEEL PRODUCTION IN ROURKELA STEEL PLANT

*682 SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel production in Rourkela Steel Plant has gone down; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The level of production during the first eight months of the year 1970-71 has been lower than that for the corresponding period in 1969-70.

(b) The main reasons for lower production during the year 1970-71 have been unsatisfactory industrial relations and technical and operational difficulties.

INSTALLATION OF POWER HOUSE AT BOKARO STEEL PLANT

*683. SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI:

SHRI DEVDATT KUMAR KIKABHAI PATEL:

SHRI D. THENGARI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contract for installation of power station of Bokaro Steel Plant was entrusted to M/s. Western India Erectors at a cost of Rs. 113 lakhs as against the lowest offer of Rs. 101 lakhs lumpsum by another contractors; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) The contract for the erection of plant and equipment for the Thermal Power unit and Turbo Blower Station of the Bokaro Steel Plant was awarded to M/s Western India Erectors at a cost of Rs. 113 lakhs approx., since this was the lowest technically acceptable offer. There were two other lower offers which were rejected because of technical differences as well as uncertain financial implications.