

Commission on net profits or commission and salary together, had been sanctioned during the last three years is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

BHILAI STEEL PLANT

1138. SHRI THILLAI VILLA-LAN :
SHRI S. SHIVAPRAKASAM:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to expand the capacity of Bhilai Steel Plant in the current year;

(b) whether there is any proposal for starting ancillary plants there; and

Cc) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) A proposal for expansion of Bhilai from 2.5 million tonnes of ingot steel to 3.2 million tonnes during the Fourth Plan is under consideration. As a preliminary, expansion of blast furnace capacity for making pig iron has already been undertaken and is expected to be completed by the middle of 1971.

Proposals for setting up a plate mill and a seamless tube Plant at Bhilai, are also under consideration.

HEAVY MACHINE BUILDING PLANT OF H.E.C., RANCHI

1139. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Heavy Machine Building Plant of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi will run out of orders by the end of 1970-71;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the performance of the Heavy Machine Tools has been poor and production has actually gone down in 1968-69 as compared to 1967-68; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) On the basis of the firm orders in hand, the Heavy Machine Building Plant will run short of orders starting from the middle of 1971-72, unless fresh orders from Steel Plants and other heavy industries are placed immediately. However, if the orders likely to be placed in connection with schemes included in the Fourth Plan are taken into account, the plant will have adequate load during 1971-72 and a substantial one during 1972-73. The question of effective utilisation of the capacity of this plant in future, along with the related questions of setting up of new steel plants and expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant, is under consideration.

During 1967-68, out of total of 15 machines tools assembled in the Heavy Machine Tools Plant, 14 were made entirely from imported knocked down components and one machine was manufactured partly from import and partly from self manufactured components. During 1968-69, 5 Radial Drilling Machines were manufactured with indigenous content of about 65% and > 3 Planning Machines, the heaviest type of the first six models introduced in the production range, were manufactured from imported unfitted unassembled components which were processed for final machining, tilting, painting, assembling and testing. In addition, two Centres Lathes assembled from imported components during 1967-68 were converted to higher capacities entirely from indigenous material. The manufacture of components and machines from own material started virtually from 1968-69. As production program in 1968-69 envisaged manufacture of components from own material to match with imported components, the number of machines manufactured during the year was only eight, compared to fifteen manufactured wholly out of imported components and subassemblies during the previous year. Thus the performance of the Heavy Machine Tools Plant during 1968-69 cannot be considered as poor compared to that of 1967-68.

WORKING GROUP ON EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS BELONGING TO SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

1140. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :