

Dam Authorities, which will then transfer the land to the Railways, as this work is being done as a "Deposit Work", chargeable to Beas Irrigation Project. It is understood that notifications under sections 4 and 6 of the Land Acquisition Act have been got issued by them.

With regard to the land acquisition for the new Crossing station at Sonai, the matter is under reference with the State Government.]

**M.M.T.C. NEGOTIATIONS WITH H.S.L. ROURKELA FOR SUPPLY OF IRON AND MANGANESE ORE**

438. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation representatives met the management of Hindustan Steel, Rourkela in the month of June last regarding supply of iron ore and manganese ore to the steel plant;

(b) if so, what was the result of negotiations;

(c) whether the M.M.T.C. pressed for orders for supply from small mine owners of the region as the long term contract with those suppliers by H.S.L. was going to be over in the month of July 1969; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of H.S.L. thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected, and will be laid on the Table of the House

**SUPPLY OF IRON AND MANGANESE ORE TO H.S.L., ROURKELA BY M.M.T.C.**

439. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) how much iron and manganese ore have been supplied by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation to Hindustan Steel Ltd., Rourkela during the last three years ending first week of July, 1969;

(b) whether the M.M.T.C. was made a contracting party after a three years' contract was signed with their suppliers by the H.S.L., the exclusion of M.M.T.C. in 1966; and

(c) the reasons for H.S.L. approaching M.M.T.C. to make supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**INCREASE IN PRICE OF STEEL**

440. SHRI CHITTA BASU :  
SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON:

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

(a) whether Government propose to allow an increase in the price of steel in the near future;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have studied the likely impact of the price-rise on the industry and Commerce as a whole;

(d) if so, the results of the study; and

(e) when the price of steel was last raised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (d) In view of the increases in costs of "production and the consequent fall in returns, the steel industry has applied for a revision in the prices. The matter is still under consideration of the Government. All relevant factors including the likely impact of an increase in the price of steel on industry and commerce, will be taken into account in arriving at a decision.

(e) The price of steel was last raised on 31-7-68.

**USE OF ALARM CHAINS ON THE INDIAN RAILWAYS**

441. SHRI M. K. MOHTA :  
SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that lately there has been a steep rise in the use of alarm chains thereby disrupting the time schedules of the trains;

(b) if so, the comparative rise in the use of alarm chains on the Indian Railways during the last six months;