

to be even ahead of those available abroad. Now, why is it that the Government is thinking of going into collaboration with foreign technical experts for the manufacture of fertilisers as in the case of Tatas?

(No reply.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

EXPENDITURE FOR INAUGURATION OF BLAST FURNACE OF BOKARO STEEL PLANT

*304. SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN:

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an article published in the "Engineering Times" dated the 1st May, 1968 about the heavy expenditure incurred during the inauguration of the blast furnace by the Prime Minister at the Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) whether Government have made any investigation in the matter;

(c) if so, what are the findings and the action taken thereon; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d) The Prime Minister had visited Bokaro on the 6th April, 1968 for laying the foundation of the first blast furnace. The report in the "Engineering Times" of the 1st May, 1968 on the nature and scale of the expenditure incurred on this occasion is a gross exaggeration of the facts. It has been ascertained that the total expenditure incurred by Bokaro Steel Limited on the ceremony, including the expenditure on lunch and other entertainment, and the arrangements for the

visit of Press representatives for publicity, amounted to about Rs. 27,000 as against the figure of Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 lakhs mentioned in the article. In the circumstances Government have not considered it necessary to make any investigation into the matter.

NEW VICTORIA MILLS

*305. SHRI ARJUN ARORA:

SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to enquire into the reasons for the closure of the New Victoria Mills of Kanpur;

(b) if so, the outcome of the enquiry;

(c) the steps taken to secure the resumption of work; and

(d) the relief provided to the workmen rendered idle as a result of closure of the mill?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The mills closed down as a sequel to a dispute between the management and the workers and, on account of financial difficulties, the management has not been able to restart it.

(c) The Central Government are in consultation with the State Government to restart the mills, at least partially, as soon as possible.

(d) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

पूर्व रेलवे के लूप सेक्शन में लाइन का दुहरा किया जाना

*306. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार की यह योजना है कि पूर्व रेलवे के लूप सेक्शन में लाइन को दुहरा किया जाये तथा जमालपुर जंक्शन को पूर्व रेलवे का डिविजनल मुख्यालय बनाया जाये; और