

(ख) एक समिति ने खान की परिचालन लागत को कम करने के प्रश्न का अध्ययन किया है। हिन्दुस्तान स्टील लिमिटेड अब इस समिति की रिपोर्ट का अध्ययन कर रही है।

(ग) 1964 में आई० डी० ए० द्वारा दिये गये ऋण से आवश्यक विदेशी मुद्रा उपलब्ध हो गई है जिससे अब आवश्यक फालतू पुर्जे प्राप्त किये जा रहे हैं। 1966 के आरम्भ में स्थिति में सुधार होने की संभावना है।

(घ) कार्यकरण पर सतत निगरानी रखी जा रही है और जब कभी भी कोई बाधा या कठिनाई आ जाती है उसे दूर करने का हर कोशिश की जाती है।

†(THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The unsatisfactory working of the Barsua Iron Ore Mines has been under enquiry both by Government and Hindustan Steel Limited for quite some-time now. The problem seems to have arisen chiefly due to the following factors:—

- (i) Non-availability of spare parts for dumpers, dozers and crushing and cleaning plant due to paucity of foreign exchange.
- (ii) Increasing distance of the mining faces from the crushing plant.
- (iii) The ore, on being mined, to have been found of a quality lower than that envisaged in the Project Report, thereby

resulting in low recovery of lump ore and larger percentage of rejection and production of fines.

2. The following remedial steps are in hand:—

- (a) A beneficiation plant to improve the quality of the mined ore is to be set up at the Mine. The proposal is expected to be finalised very soon.
- (b) The question of reducing the cost of working of the mines has been examined by a Committee whose report is now being studied by Hindustan Steel Limited.
- (c) With the necessary foreign exchange having become available under IDA loan during 1964, necessary spare parts are now being procured. The situation is expected to improve by the beginning of 1966.
- (d) The performance is being watched constantly and every effort made to remove hurdles and snags as and when they arise.

SETTING UP OF TEXTILE MILLS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

96. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to establish some more textile mills in the public sector;

(b) if so, how many, and by when they will start working; and

(c) the sites chosen for the same and the total expenditure Government of India is going to spend on each of them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI S. V. RAMASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In all about 45 mills are proposed to be set up in public (Central and State sectors) and co-operative sectors in the Fourth and Fifth Five Year Plans. These will be mostly in backward districts of backward areas, regions and States which are deficient in cotton textile industry.

Also 5 public sector export mills for cotton yarn will be established in the Fourth Five Year Plan. These 5 units will be at the best possible sites for export.

The details of locations and cost of mills are being worked out.

97. [Transferred to the 24th November, 1965].

RETRENCHMENT OF LABOURERS AT MATHURSKATE RECLAMATION YARD

98. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers retrenched by the Railways at Mathur-skate Reclamation Yard, Kharagpur, during the last three months;

(b) the reasons for the retrenchment and whether retrenchment notice was served and compensation paid to the affected labourers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) No departmental labour has been retrenched during the last three months.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

UNCULTIVATED LAND ALONG THE RAILWAY TRACK

99. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large tracts of lands are lying uncultivated along the railway track in the country;

(b) if so, what is the total of such land in each Railway Zone;

(c) whether any proposal to bring this land under cultivation is under Government's consideration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) to (d) Out of the surplus railway lands in narrow strips along the track and in station yards, it has been estimated that roughly 78,087 acres is suitable for cultivation, large portions of which are in station yards. A statement showing break-up of such lands in each Railway Zone is attached at Annexure 'A'.

As per policy laid down after consultation with the Food and Agriculture Ministry, 39,260 acres of such land along the track has been handed over to the respective State Governments for leasing out to cultivators for 'Grow More Food' purposes.

Land within the station yards is allotted to Railway employees only and so far 4,027 acres of such land has been brought under cultivation in station yards.

State Governments are being urged to take over the balance portion of the cultivable railway land available alongside the track and enlist the co-operation of local panchayats with a view to encourage the villagers to cultivate the railway lands adjoining their fields.

Railway employees are also being encouraged to grow vegetable in lands near their quarters and also to take up cultivation of surplus railway lands in station yards.