

pleted during the Third Plan period. A total of 1325 metres of drilling has been done so far. Copper mineralisation zones with 0-23 per cent—4·65 per cent copper have been encountered in the bore holes.

(b) The expenditure is met from within the general budget grant of the ■Geological Survey of India. No separate expenditure has been sanctioned for this investigation.

MINIMUM WAGES FOR WORKERS ON CENTRAL RAILWAY

♦230. SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the year when Central Railway had fixed minimum wages for the ■workers employed on daily wages;

(b) in view of the increased prices of all commodities whether Government propose to modify the Minimum Wages Act; and

(c) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) In March 1952 the Ministry of Labour had notified the rates of minimum wage for workers of the Central Railway employed on the following employments which are covered by the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; (1) maintenance and construction of roads or in building operations; and

(2) stone breaking or stone crushing.

(b) and (c). The question of revising the existing rates is under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION OF COAL IN FOURTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

*231. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government "to ensure additional yearly production of coal of 12 million tons (average increase of 16 per cent) in the Fourth

Five Year Plan, over the production target of 75 million tons in the Third Five Year Plan, as against average yearly increase of three million tons (7·5 per cent) during the last ten years; and

(b) the extent to which the policy of Government in regard to grant of industrial licences for opening of new mines or for reopening of the mine* helps in achieving additional targets?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY): (a) A final decision about the target of coal production for the Fourth Plan has yet to be taken. A substantial part of the additional production will come from the expansion of existing mines. As soon as the target is finally determined, all proposals for expansion and new development will be scrutinised and such follow-up action as is necessary in each case will be taken. In the meantime, preparatory action such as acquisition of land, drilling and prospecting, preparation of project reports, is being taken in respect of new projects.

(b) The grant of licences under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act for the opening of new coal mines, or of permission to reopen abandoned mines, is considered on mines, or of permission to produce as will result in the additional production of coal of the grade or grades required.

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SUPPLY OF BILLETS

*232. SHRI RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:-

(a) the details of the schedule fixed by the Iron and Steel Controller for monthly supplies of billets during the period from 1st January, 1964 to 30th September, 1964 by following producers:—

(i) Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.

(ii) Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.

(iii) Bhilai Steel Plant of Hindustan Steel Ltd; and

(iv) Durgapur Steel Plant of Hindustan Steel Ltd.

(b) the actual monthly supplies made by each and the shortfall in respect of such supplies to each of the following;

(i) billet re-rollers in India; and (ii) secondary producers; and

(c) what steps, if any, Government propose to take to ensure that short falls in supply do not occur in the future and those of the past are made good?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, AND MINES (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY): (a) to (c). Statement showing the schedule fixed by the Controller," the actual monthly supplies made by the producers and the shortfall in respect, of supplies of billets are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix L, Annexure No. IL] The schedule was fixed somewhat higher during the period January-June, 1964 on the basis of past despatches made by the producers during periods when they were unable to roll their semi-finished steel into finished products. The main producers are now increasingly developing and utilising their finishing capacity for rolling finished products with the result that supplies of semifinished steel like billets to re-rollers are falling below supplies in past periods, although these are generally above the production planned on these plants at their present stages of expansion.

Increased availability of billets from the main producers can be expected only when the present expansion schemes are completed and commence normal operations. Some additional production is likely to be available next year when new units are commissioned at the Bhilai Steel Plant.

Meanwhile, steps are being taken in consultation with the producers to see that the revised schedule settled in agreement with them are adhered to.

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SHORTAGE OF COMMERCIAL CLERKS IN PASSENGER BOOKING SERVICE

*233. SHRI G. D. TAPASE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is a shortage of commercial clerks in passenger booking services in the Bombay Division; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir; to the extent of 7 Coaching Clerks on Bombay Division of the Western Railway and 48 Coaching Clerks on Bombay Division of the Central Railway.

(b) Reasons for shortage are:

- (i) Lack of response from selected candidates;
- (ii) Failure of candidates in medical examination; and
- (iii) Failure of candidates in Departmental Examinations held in Training Schools;

Steps proposed to be taken to make good the shortage;

- (i) 74 candidates are already under training;
- (ii) 170 selected candidates are available for training in the next batch; and
- (iii) Indents for another 225 candidates have been placed on the Railway Service Commissions.