

STRIKE BY MOTOR DRIVERS OF HINDUSTAN STEEL LTD., ROURKELA

•259. SHRI DHANANJOY MOHANTY: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the recent labour strike by the motor drivers of Hindustan Steel Limited, Rourkela; and

(to) the amount of financial loss to the company thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) The motor vehicle drivers of Rourkela steel plant went on strike from the 20th January to the 24th January, 1964. Their demands included, *inter alia*, 1 payment of production bonus, restoration of old leave benefits, continuance of old shift arrangements and re-instatement of suspended and dismissed workers.

(b) No financial loss was incurred by the company as production level was maintained in spite of the strike.

EXEMPTION FROM BOARD EXAMINATION IN DELHI

*424. SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to grant exemption from Board Examination for Class VIII students of some schools in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) and (to) There is no Board Examination for Class VIII students; therefore, the rest of the question does not arise.

†Transferred from the 25th February, 1964.

COKING COAL

SHRI BANSI LAL:

•425. «j SARDAR RAGHUBIR SINGH I PANJHAZARI:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Untarred Question No. 568 in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December, 1963 and state:

(a) whether Government have completed the studies for scientific utilisation of coking coal;

(to) how far Government have been able to enforce restrictions on use of coking coal for metallurgical purposes only; and

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to place similar restrictions on consumption of superior grades of non-coking coal also?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) The various experiments regarding the adoption of modern techniques for effecting reduction in the consumption of coking coal are still being conducted.

(b) The use of superior qualities of coking coal is generally restricted to metallurgical purposes only. Occasionally, however, some coking coals become surplus to the requirements of steel plants and other metallurgical industries and these are then allotted to non-metallurgical users on an *ad hoc* basis.

(c) There is already a gradewise schedule for allocation of non-coking coals to various categories of consumers. The entitlement for superior grades of non-coking coal is based on a technical appraisal of the requirements of consumers, and those who can do with lower grades of coal, are not allocated superior grades.