

t[THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR);

Yestr	Collection from customers during the year	Amount due from customers at the end of the year
	(Rs. lakhs)	(Rs. lakhs)
1960-61	47-41	30-90
1961-62	377-95	204-59
1962-63	1507-86	627-60
1963-64 (Upto Dec. 1963)	3138-72	noo-oo (approx.)]

#### REFRACTORY BRICKS

329. SHRI DHANANJOY MOHANTY: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state how do the indigenous refractory bricks compare with those imported for use by the Hindustan Steel Limited, Rourkela?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): There is a wide variety of refractories required for steel production. While, the quality of indigenous refractories of general purpose is satisfactory, special types required for blast furnace, open-hearth roof and open-hearth ladles have been found to withstand less number of heats as compared to imported bricks.

#### UTILISATION OF SLAG FROM STEEL PLANTS

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

(a) whether Government have any scheme for the utilisation of huge amount of slag dumped by the different steel plants;

†[ ] English translation.

(b) whether the Hindustan Steel Ltd., Rourkela, received any proposal on the subject; and

(c) if so, what was the proposal and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) to (c). Schemes for utilisation of blast furnace slag at Bhilai and Durgapur for production of cement are under consideration. As regards Rourkela, investigations with regard to the suitability of slag for manufacture of cement are in progress.

#### PRICE OF GAS IN GUJARAT

331. SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dispute between the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the Gujarat Government on the price of gas has been settled; and

(b) if not, when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): (a) and (b). The dispute has been referred to arbitration with a request for an early award.

#### WASTAGE OF NAPHTHA

332. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at present more than half a million tonne of naphtha fractions produced at refineries is going waste; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to utilise this naphtha for the production of raw material and if so, what is that proposal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): No, Sir.