

**IRON ORE IN HOSPET-BELLARY AREA**

•319. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey of the availability and quality of iron ore in Hospet-Bellary area has been conducted; and

(b) when the steel plant in that area will be set up, and what will be its capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) Yes Sir. According to a recent estimate made by the Government of Mysore the Hospet-Bellary area has a reserve of about 1,000 million tonnes of good quality iron ore, Fe Content varying between 65—68 per cent. The reserves would however have to be proved by further prospecting.

(b) The Government have recently received the Consulting Engineer's preliminary report on the feasibility of setting up an iron and steelworks of 1.5 million tonnes capacity in the Goa-Hospet region in the Fourth Plan period. The Report is under examination.

**SETTING UP OF NEW BLAST FURNACES**

•320. SHRI SURJIT SINGH ATWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up five new blast furnaces each with a capacity of 400 thousand tons of pig iron; and

(b) if so, what is the outline of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b) The Steering Group, which has been set up to help the Government to formulate its Fourth Five Year Plan on iron and steel, recently suggested setting up six blast furnaces of 400,000 tonnes an-

nual capacity each in the Fourth Plan period for the production of foundry iron. The recommendations of the Steering Group are under the examination of Government.

**LICENCES FOR MANUFACTURE OF TRACTORS/TILLERS**

•321. SHRI P. ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to liberalise the grant of licences for manufacture of tractors and tillers; and

(b) if so, how many applications have been received by Government so far and the action taken on them and how many applications are from new entrants?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The ban on creating additional capacity for the manufacture of power tillers was lifted in October, 1962, while the ban imposed on licensing of further capacity for the manufacture of agricultural tractors has been removed recently.

(b) 25 applications have so far been received for the manufacture of tractors/tillers. These are under examination. 20 of these applications are from new entrants.

**GRADING OF COALS**

•322. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendation of the expert committee on grading of coals regarding classification of coals based on their calorific value has been accepted by Government; and

(b) if so, when this recommendation will be given effect to?