

PROCESSING OF BARYTES

♦466. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any lease has been granted to Andhra Pradesh Mining Corporation for processing Barytes in Khammam District, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the extent of area leased out to them; and

(c) what will be the estimated production in the year 1963?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND FUEL (SHRI R. M. HAJARNAVIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 312.65 acres only.

(c) 20,000 tonnes.

STEEL PRODUCTION

f SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL*:
•467. <J PATEL*:
^SHRI M. S. OBEROI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as a result of steps taken to increase the output of Steel Plants in the public sector, production of steel has been considerably stepped up;

(b) if so, the break-up of production figures for all the Steel Plants during December, 1962; and

(c) whether reduction in surplus hands or providing them with alternative employment is being arranged, with a view to reducing the production cost?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel.

(b) Production of steel ingots during December, 1962 at the Steel Plants was: —

Bhilai	...	95600 tonnes
Rourkela	...	72586 „, Durgapur
...	77525	»

(c) No reduction of staff strength is contemplated, since any surpluses existing can be utilised on the expansion programmes.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is the Government taking steps to see that the number of employees put on the production of steel conforms with the Solveen Report and that the surplus staff are engaged on some other work, instead of their being utilised in the steel mills even if they are surplus?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do agree that there is a certain number of surplus men in the Steel Plants, but they cannot be immediately thrown out. As hon. Members are aware, they have the expansion programme which is being implemented. Every attempt is being made to see that the surplus personnel get absorbed in this expansion programme. After all we would require trained personnel for running the expanded steel industry.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: In view of the emergency, what steps have been taken to accelerate the expansion programmes?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Every step is being taken to see that this expansion programme goes through as expeditiously as possible and I can assure the House that we will keep to the target dates with regard to these expansion programmes.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Does the present rate of acceleration or the

speed of progress conform with the speed of progress that was made in the setting up of the steel mills or it is in a better way?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I would not like to make comparisons, but I can give the assurance that it is being done at a very accelerated pace now.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know, Sir, if the Government is able to give a categorical assurance that nobody will be declared surplus merely because production and productivity in the Steel Plants has increased?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: It is not on that basis that men are declared as surplus, but we have to take into account the number of men required to produce at the maximum capacity. Even after taking that into account, my own view is that there is a certain number of surplus men in the Steel Plants, but as I have already stated they will get absorbed in the expanded programmes.

SHRI M. 9. OBEROI: May I ask whether production in the Rourkela Steel Plant is going according to schedule?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I placed new targets for them to be achieved, that is, that they should reach 90 per cent by December 1962, and they have achieved that. The next target I have fixed for them is that before the beginning of the next financial year, that is 1963-64, they should reach the full capacity of production, and I am hopeful that they would be able to achieve this target also.

FORMATION OF COUNCILS ON THE MODEL OF WHITLEY COUNCILS

•468. SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision on the proposal to form Councils on the model of

Whitley Councils for the Central Government Employees; and

(b) if so, when they are likely to be formed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRA-SEKHAR) ; (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: May I know the reasons why the Government is not contemplating it now when they were contemplating earlier to form such Councils?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: This matter, as the hon. Member might know, has been under our consideration for some time past. It is a complicated matter and we have to consult various Ministries. We have discussed this matter with all the Ministries and have almost finished our discussion. The final note is ready and a draft Bill is being prepared. It has to be postponed because of the emergency which arose. Probably as soon as we are in a position to take it up again, we shall certainly do so.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if Councils like Whitley Councils which aim at settling disputes and removing differences are likely to be more useful in times of emergency than in normal times, and may I remind the Home Minister that in the United Kingdom, for example, during the war when greater production was needed and when greater efficiency was needed. Production Committees and Councils were set up even though they did not exist before the war?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I entirely agree with the approach of the hon. Member, but luckily there has been a very good response from the workers during this emergency period. They have made their contribution on their own. So, there is no particularly