

to now about Rs. 37 crores have been invested in it. As a matter of fact, the target set by the consultants is much lower than what we are just now producing. But we have revised the target of production. We have not reached the revised target.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants

*327. { **Shri Morarka:**
Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee:

Will the Minister of **Steel and Heavy Industries** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee on Plan Projects has completed its studies to eliminate production and supply bottlenecks in Rourkela and Durgapur steel plants; and

(b) if so, what are their findings?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):

(a) The studies conducted by the Committee on Plan Projects did not specifically relate to matters concerning elimination of production and supply bottlenecks in Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants.

(b) Does not arise.

Dealers of Cement

*333. **Shri D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of **Steel and Heavy Industries** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 492 on the 25th January, 1963 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Bihar and in some other States the manufacturers of cement appoint their dealers without reference to State Governments;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Governments have to grant licences only to those dealers who are chosen by the manufacturers; and

(c) whether Government are aware that this has led to concentration of dealers at certain places and dearth at other important places, thus giving scope for blackmarketing?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Stockists in cement are appointed by the Selling Agents of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited in their respective marketing zones. As the relationship between the Selling Agent and the Stockist is that of reciprocal financial accommodation and responsibility, Government do not normally interfere with the appointment of Stockists by the Selling Agents under the general authority of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited. However, in most States, Stockists are also required to obtain a licence from the State Government under the State Cement Control Order. Under these Orders, a State Government can (1) refuse to grant a licence, (2) suspend a licensee and/or (3) refuse to renew a licence. Accordingly, the State Government may, in its discretion, refuse to licence Stockists appointed by a Selling Agent. Stockists are also required under the State Cement Control Order to maintain registers for recording the receipt and sale of cement and furnish information required by the State Government.

In the present conditions of shortage of cement and the limited allocation made to Stockists, increase in the number of Stockists is not being encouraged except for purposes of replacement, or where there is a real need either from the distribution point of view or in order to ensure adequate competition so as to discourage malpractices. The State Trading Corporation of India has instructed the Selling Agents not to make fresh appointment of stockists without the prior concurrence of the State Trading Corporation.

The quantum of cement despatched to stockists is strictly regulated according to the allocation made by the concerned State authorities for