

Shri Solanki:  
 Shri Kapur Singh:  
 Shri Buta Singh:  
 Shri Narasimha Reddy:  
 Shri P. E. Chakraverti:  
 Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:  
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:  
 Shri Daljit Singh:  
 Shri Karni Singhji:  
 Shri P. K. Deo:  
 Shri P. G. Sen:  
 Shri Prakaah Vir Shastri:  
 Shri Krishna Pal Singh:  
 Shri B. N. Kureel:  
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:  
 Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have held negotiations with the USSR Government regarding the assistance for the setting up of the Bokaro Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the negotiations and the steps taken so far in the matter?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). After the announcement of the U.S.S.R. assistance for the Bokaro Steel Plant in May this year, negotiations have been held with the USSR Government about the scope of such assistance. Copies of the detailed project report and our Technical Committee's Report thereon, were sent to them. A team headed by the Secretary, Department of Iron and Steel, visited the USSR in the middle of July. The main purpose of the team's visit was to impress upon the Soviet Government our keenness to complete the Project on a priority basis and draw up a time-schedule consistent with this objective. The team held discussions with the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, State Committee for Iron & Steel Industry, Tjazzpromexport, the Soviet Trade Organisation, and Gipromez, the Soviet Central Design Institute for metallurgical Plants.

The Soviet Government appreciated our anxiety to complete the Project

with the utmost expedition, and a team of Soviet specialists is now in this country for further investigations and detailed technical discussions. The team is at present visiting the various steel plants and is making on-the-spot studies of ore mines and quarries, and the site of the plant. It will also hold discussions with the National Mineral Development Corporation, the National Coal Development Corporation, the D.V.C. etc. in connection with the supply of iron ore, coal, power and water supply etc. After this study and further discussions with the Technical Officers, which are expected to be completed this month, the team of Soviet specialists will report back to their Government after which an Agreement with the USSR Government will be signed.

#### Steel Projects

Shri Surendra Pal Singh:  
 Shri Sashi Ranjan:  
 Dr. Ranen Sen:  
 Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:  
 Dr. Saradish Roy:  
 Shri P. C. Borooah:  
 \*124. Shri Solanki:  
 Shri Narasimha Reddy:  
 Shri Vishram Prasad:  
 Shri P. E. Chakraverti:  
 Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:  
 Shri J. B. S. Bist:  
 Shri B. L. Kureel:  
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an international consortium of American and British Private firms have shown interest in the steel projects that are likely to be set up in this country in the near future and it has already made a positive approach to the Indian Government in this regard; and

(b) if so, the nature of offer of help made by this consortium?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). An International Consortium has shown interest in setting up steel-

works in India. Members of this Consortium are expected to visit India in October when concrete proposals are likely to be submitted.

**Steel Plant at Bonaigarh in Orissa**

\*113. { Shri Hem Barua:  
Shri D. D. Mantri:  
Shri P. K. Deo:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to locate a steel plant at Bonaigarh in Orissa;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the project; and

(c) whether any foreign collaboration has been accepted for this plant project?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy): (a) to (c). No, Sir, but two feasibility studies have been commissioned to study several regions, including Bonaigarh, for locating a few iron-making units which could later be developed into steel plants. A decision in regard to sites can be taken after the feasibility Reports are received. The reports are expected by June, 1965. It is too early now to consider foreign collaboration and other matters.

**Price of Cement**

\*126. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:  
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri P. C. Boroach:  
Shri Kolla Venkalah:

Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have raised the price of cement recently;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri Bibudhendra Mishra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the F.O.R. destination price has been increased by Rs. 2 per tonne, with effect from the 1st July 1964.

(c) This increase was pursuant to increases allowed to cement producers in their ex-works prices and to increased railway freight on the transport of cement. The ex-works prices were raised in order to compensate producers for increases in such elements as pit-head price of coal, railway freight on coal and electricity rates.

**Public Sector Steel Plants**

\*127. { Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:  
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel plants in the public sector are working to full capacities during the current year;

(b) if not, which of the plants are working below their capacities and to what extent and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to push up their working to full capacities?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy): (a) to (c). During the current year, Bhilai Steel Plant has been working above the rated capacity and Durgapur Steel Plant very near the rated capacity.

Rourkela Steel Plant has, however, worked to about 79 per cent of steel ingot capacity and 77 per cent of saleable steel capacity. This shortfall in production has been mainly due to the shutting down of blast furnace No. 1 for relining from January to July 1964 and the dislocation caused by the civil disturbances in the latter half of March 1964. Since August, 1964, all the three blast furnaces are working and production is again showing the upward trend and there is no reason to