

Provision of Accommodation to Bolani Iron Ore Mine Employees

3582. SHRI GOVINDA MUNDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the employees of the Bolani Iron Ore Mines have been provided with accommodation;

(b) if not, reasons therefor; and

(c) steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) to (c). Of the total number of 1168 employees of Bolani Ores Ltd., 673, constituting about 75 per cent, have been provided with quarters in the township. This is more than the norm of 70 per cent prescribed for provision of housing to employees of public undertakings. Further, some employees of the Company who live in the surrounding villages have their own housing.

Wages to workers of Bolani Iron Ore Mines

3583. SHRI GOVINDA MUNDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the wages of the workers of the Bolani Iron Ore Mines are not paid on the first day of every month;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to disburse the wages on due date?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b). Normally, the wages of the workers of Bolani Bros. Limited are paid on the 1st of every month. However, owing to the difficult ways & means position of the company arising out of the fall in production and despatches, in some months the payment of wages could not be made on this date.

(c) Steps to improve the working of the company, including some organisational changes are under consideration of the Government.

Revision of Wage Agreement and payment of Bonus to employees of Bolani Iron Ore Mines

3584. SHRI GOVINDA MUNDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the employees of the Bolani Iron Ore Mines have not been paid bonus for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the term of wage agreement with the employees has expired and is due for revision since February 1976; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take for payment of bonus and revision of wage agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b). Bonus at the rate of 4 per cent was paid for the year ending September, 1975 as per the rules then in force. No bonus was payable for the year ending September, 1976 as there was no allocable surplus.

(c) and (d). The term of the last Wage Agreement was up to the 31st January, 1976. If a fresh agreement is not concluded, the old agreement continues to operate and the wage scales, dearness allowance etc., are continued as per the terms of the old agreement. There have been a series of meetings between the representatives of workers and management on the issue of wage revision. This issue is still under discussion.

Amount involved in Provident Fund Defalcation

3585. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount involved in provident fund defalcation by employers as on 20-3-77;