

- (ii) introduction of Benzene for use as fuel ;
- (iii) Simultaneous repairs to more than one Open Hearth Furnace to improve furnace availability ;
- (iv) Introduction of oxygen lancing in open hearth furnaces.
- (v) Steps for improving quality and reducing rejections etc

Visit of Minister of Steel and Mines to Bhilai Steel Plant

776. SHRI G. C. DIXIT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether he visited the site of the Bhilai Steel Plant recently , and
- (b) if so, the purpose of the visit ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMAR-MANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The date and purpose of the visits are given below :

Date of visit	Purpose of visit
5.5.71	Visited the Steel Plant, addressed the officers and met the trade union leaders.
30.7.71	Inaugurated the 6th Blast Furnace. Held discussions with officers on the progress of steel production.
15.10.71	Visited Rajhara Mines and the Steel Plant. Held discussions with both Soviet and Indian officers and met trade union leaders.

Strike in Bhilai Steel Plant

777. SHRI G. C. DIXIT : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there was any strike in the Bhilai Steel Plant during the last three years ;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the strike ;
- (c) the man-hours lost during the strike

period and the financial loss suffered consequently ; and

(d) the action taken against the persons responsible for this ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Meeting of Underground Naga Leader Shri Phizo and Mizo Rebel Leader Shri Laldanga

778. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any information regarding the meeting of the self-exiled underground Naga Leader Shri Phizo and Mizo Rebel Leader Shri Laldanga in the month of August, 1971 at Dacca ;

(b) whether Government have any information that the Mizo Rebel Leader Shri Laldanga wants to surrender ;

(c) whether Government have any information regarding the number of the Naga and Mizo Rebels who are in China and East Pakistan ; and

(d) whether there is any fresh move by the Rebel Naga Leaders for talks with Government ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) We have no information.

(b) We have no information that the Mizo Rebel Leader Laldanga intends to surrender. On the contrary, according to our information the Mizo rebels in East Bengal under the leadership of Laldanga are actively cooperating with the West Pakistan Army. However, a number of top-ranking leaders of the MNF belonging to the moderate faction have recently returned to India and surrendered to our authorities.

(c) We have no information of any Mizo Rebel group in China. As regards East Bengal, in June, 1971, they were estimated to be approximately 2000 including women, children and nearly 1200 personnel of the so-called "Mizo National Army". There are reports that some Naga rebels had proceeded to China during 1971. Their