

up in Block-II. Test drilling is in progress in Block-III and IV. The reserve and the grade of the ore available in Block-I would be assessed after completion of analytical work.

(b) The scope for commercial exploitation will depend upon the results obtained from the test being carried out in the area.

Fire in Bokaro Steel Plant

2076. SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Report of the Enquiry Committee set up to inquire into the fire which broke out in December, 1971 at Bokaro Steel Plant has been received;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the officers responsible for this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Report of the Enquiry Committee set up by Bokaro Steel Ltd. to investigate into the fire that broke out on the 30th November, 1971, in Refractory Shed No. 2 in the Coke Oven Zone of the Bokaro Steel Plant has been received.

(b) The Committee as also Central Bureau of Investigation, who investigated the matter, have ruled out any possibility of sabotage as the cause of fire. The net loss estimated by the Committee on account of damage to refractories, storage shed, etc., is about Rs. 60 lakhs. The Committee has recommended the strengthening of Fire Fighting Organisation of Bokaro Steel Ltd.

(c) Departmental action is being taken against six officers of the Company in this regard. Action is also being taken against the contractor who should have removed the empty boxes and packing materials.

Supply of Iron Rods for Balapattam Road Bridge in Kerala

2077. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the authorities are not in a position to start the work of Balapattam road bridge in Cannanore District of Kerala due to scarcity of iron rods; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to supply enough iron rods for the construction of this bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). A request for allocation of 390 tonnes of 6 mm to 25 mm M.S. Rods from the Steel Controller's reserve was received from the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) Kerala Government during the period January—March, 1972 for construction of Balapattam road bridge in Cannanore District of Kerala. Due to inadequate availability to meet all the competing requests the demand could not be met during the period. However, efforts are being made to meet the demand to the extent possible through either Steel Priority Committee allocation or Billet Re-rollers Committee allocation during the period April—June, 1972.

Overstocking of Iron and Steel at Rourkela and Bhilai Steel Plants

2078. SHRI SWARAN SINGH SOKHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been overstocking of Iron and Steel at Rourkela and Bhilai Steel Plants in 1971 and even at present; and

(b) if so, to what extent (in tonnage and amount)?