

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a). The problems of the Durgapur Steel Plants have been and are under continuous scrutiny

(b). The problems are continued adverse industrial relations unsatisfactory condition of Coke ovens and oven equipment; shortage of gas equipment troubles and, more recently, DVC powers restrictions

(c). All possible efforts are being made to improve the production by taking a number of measures like repairs to Coke Ovens, use of alternative/auxiliary fuels to supplement Coke Oven gas availability, use of oxygen lancing in open hearth furnaces to the extent possible, improved maintenance aimed at better equipment availability, speeding up of capital programmes and planned procurement of spares, refractories and other essential materials. In the area of industrial relations, a three-tier joint consultative machinery has been set up for speedy settlement of industrial disputes and grievances and for enlisting the cooperation of workers in maximising production

Meeting of Non-Aligned Nations

2581. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARAM: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of the United Arab Republic (Egypt) has proposed for a meeting of non-aligned nations:

(b) whether an invitation has been received by the Prime Minister of India in this regard; and

(c) the venue of the meeting of the non-aligned nations and the subject to be discussed at the meeting?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c). A summit meeting of non-aligned countries is to be held in Algiers next year before the 26th U.N. General Assembly. A preparatory meeting at official level is

also scheduled to be held in Kabul earlier. These decisions were taken at the Georgetown meeting of Foreign Ministers of non-aligned countries in August 1972.

The Egyptian Government have expressed their interest in the reactivation of the non-aligned movement. In this connection, they have been in contact with India. They have not, however, made a proposal for a meeting of non-aligned countries.

Application of prescribed Bonus to .. Public Sector Units

2582. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bonus of 8.33 per cent prescribed for all factories and establishments have been made applicable to public sector units also, and

(b) if so, the financial implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a). The increase applies to all public sector establishments covered by the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. Establishments in public sector which do not pay bonus under the Act by virtue of the provisions in Section 20 thereof, have also been asked to make payments *ex-gratia*.

(b) The estimate of additional liability in respect of central public sector undertakings for the year 1971-72 works out to about Rs. 6.5 to 7 crores.

Demand of Cash Doles by War Sufferers in Akhnoor Town of Jammu and Kashmir.

2583. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the residents of Akhnoor town of Jammu and Kashmir have demanded cash doles for war sufferers who were uprooted during the Indo-Pak war in 1971; and