

Improvement in utilization of capacity of Heavy Electricals Plants in Public Sector

720. SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any improvement in the utilisation of capacity in recent months in the Heavy Electricals Plants in the public sector; and

(b) if so, the percentage of utilization at present as compared to that of last year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The capacity utilization for the first six months of 1973 in respect of all the units of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and Heavy Electricals (India) Limited has been 62 per cent more as compared to the corresponding period of the last year.

Kudremukh Iron Ore Project

721. SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given up the Kudremukh Iron Ore Project under which iron ore was proposed to be exported in the form of slurry; and

(b) if so, what is the alternative proposal that is being considered by Government to export the ore from Kudremukh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b). The foreign partners in the project have stated that there are no prospects of import of Kudremukh slurry for making of pellets in Japan owing to anti-pollution measures in that country. Studies are under-way in respect of technical feasibility

and economic viability of exporting sinter feed slurry.

Supply of Iron and Steel to Kerala

722. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAKKAPPAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether supply of iron and steel to Kerala is inadequate; and

(b) if so, the schemes proposed to be formulated by Government to ensure adequate supply thereof to Kerala?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b). Demand for iron and steel is in excess of availability in respect of several categories. There is no State-wise allocation under the present distribution system. Allocations of steel are regulated by the Steel Priority Committee, taking into account the end use for which steel is required, availability and the competing demands

Shortage of Coal in Kerala

723. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAKKAPPAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a great shortage of coal in the State of Kerala; and

(b) if so, what special measures are being taken to supply coal in adequate quantity to the State of Kerala?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) The consumption of coal in Kerala is very small. Moreover, Government has not received any complaint of shortage of coal in the State of Kerala so far.

(b) Does not arise.