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SOURCE Statisztikai Szemle.

CRITICIZES HUNGARIAN INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS

The Central Statistical Office has compared the production figures for the first half of 1950 with statistical data for the same period. This work included several hundred enterprises and there was hardly one case in which the most important index derived from the two reports, the cost of production exclusive of raw materials, coincided.

Two reasons are given for these deviations: (1) the enterprises did not observe existing decrees regarding accounting and statistical procedures, and (2) the existing decrees regarding accounting and statistical methods are contradictory.

The following examples illustrate the first case, taken from heavy industry:

Semifinished products worth 1,205,000 forints at the beginning of the first quarter of 1950 were omitted, and the amount is shown as a bookkeeping surplus.

Cash sales were not reported to the Statistical Office, because of an oversight.

Electric power was not always included in the list of materials used. The cost of power, gas, and water was disregarded. Further discrepancies were caused by the enterprise using dictated production costs.

In the light industry, costs of raw materials were shown only to a small extent or not at all. Costs of power, steam, water, and work clothes were omitted.

Discrepancies were caused by the fact that the cost of materials was calculated erroneously, and the Statistical Office was not informed of this fact.

No records of raw materials were kept. In many cases the reported figures were based on estimates.

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The data on wages did not correspond with the production results, since, for instance, vacations paid during the last week of the month are to be reported during the following month in the statistical questionnaires.

Discrepancies are caused by the fact that materials which are not listed in the statistical questionnaire are simply omitted. These examples show poor performance on the part of executives, headbookkeepers, statisticians, and the supervisory agencies.

The low quality and contradictions of the above production and statistical reports are a danger to planned economy.

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