

[*Translation*]**Production of Pig Iron, Sponge Iron and Steel in Bihar**

8460. SHRI LAL BABU RAI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any measures to increase the production of pig iron, sponge iron and steel in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(c) the percentage of increase made in their production during the current year in comparison to the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). Government do not propose to set up new iron and steel plants during the Eighth Five Year Plan. However, Government

are making efforts to improve the performance of the existing public sector steel plants through technological upgradation and modernisation. A number of steps have also been taken by the Government to encourage private sector investment in the steel industry so as to increase production of iron and steel in the country. These include exemption of iron and steel from the requirements of compulsory licensing subject to some locational restriction, removal of control over pricing and distribution, inclusion of iron and steel in the list of high priority industries and reduction in import duties on raw materials/intermediates. A set of "Guidelines for Entrepreneurs in Iron and Steel Industry" has also been issued for providing guidance to prospective entrepreneurs interested in setting up new iron and steel projects.

(c) The estimated production and percentage of increase (+) / decrease () of pig iron, sponge iron, saleable steel in the State of Bihar during the last three years are given below :

(Unit in lakh tonnes)

<i>Item</i>	<i>1990—91</i>	<i>1991—92</i>	<i>1992—93</i> <i>(Prov.)</i>
Pig Iron	3.32 (-14.9%)	1.71 (-48.5%)	1.54 (-10%)
Sponge Iron	1.15 (+45.6%)	1.24 (+7.8%)	1.25 (+0.8%)
Saleable Steel	45.29 (+1.7%)	49.21 (+8.7%)	52.63 (+7.0%)

NOTE : Figures in brackets indicate the percentage increase/ decrease over the previous year.

Aids Control

8461. SHRI N. J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of H. I. V. (Positive) cases

detected so far in Gujarat;

(b) the names of the hospital in Gujarat where AIDS testing facilities are available;

(c) whether any AIDS control programme is being implemented in Gujarat with foreign