

surplus personnel absorbed in other projects undertaken by HSCIL at Bhilai, Kudremukh, etc.

2. The problem of surplus personnel numbering about 6500 at Bokaro has also been discussed recently in a meeting between the Prime Minister, Minister of Steel and Mines and Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar when it was agreed that some of the surplus workers from Bokaro can be sent to Bhilai, in batches in a phased manner while at the same time local persons would continue to get employment at Bhilai. Action is being taken by CSCL to implement this scheme in consultation with the local authorities of the State Government at Bhilai.

3. No retrenchment has so far taken place at Bokaro of HSCIL workers. Of the initial surplus of 6500 workers Bokaro has so far been able to deploy 1800 in other units of HSCIL leaving a balance of 4700 surplus workers at Bokaro. HSCIL is also trying to secure works abroad so that some of the surplus staff could be utilised in those projects.

4. Efforts are also being made by HSCIL to get the surplus employees absorbed in other public sector construction organisations.

Demand of G. P. and G. C. Sheets in West Bengal and Tripura

2675. SHRI SACHINDRA LAL SINGHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual demand of G.P. and G.C. Sheets in West Bengal and Tripura;

(b) the details of the supply of these sheets in this area;

(c) whether it is a fact that H.S.L. Calcutta Stock-yard failed to supply to the Calcutta Firms;

(d) if so, the details of the demand made by the Calcutta Firms during the last three years, firm-wise; and

(e) the action taken up-to-date in meeting the demand of the Calcutta Firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) According to the assessment of SAIL, the effective annual demand for GP and GC sheets in West Bengal and Tripura is 20,000 tonnes and 1,500 tonnes respectively.

(b) Details of approximate supplies of GP and GC sheets to West Bengal and Tripura by SAIL are given below:—

	(In tonnes)	
	West Bengal	Tripura
	tonnes	tonnes
1977-78	10,400	500
April--June '78	2,000	150

In addition to the above supplies made by SAIL, supplies have also been made by IISCO and TISCO.

(c) and (d). By and large the demands received by SAIL stock-yard at Calcutta are being depending on the availability. Since the sales from stock-yards take place on 'cash and carry' basis, the demands are not registered. Hence the details of firm-wise demand are not available.

(e) SAIL is rushing supplies of galvanised sheets to areas where shortages are reported.

Committee to go into Alleged Corruption and Misuse in Steel Sector

2676. SHRI SACHINDRA LAL SINGHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting up a Committee to go into alleged mal-practices, corruption and misuse in the Steel Sector;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal with the complaints received up-to-date; and

(c) the action taken on the basis of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Steel Policy for development of Rural and Backward Areas

2677. SHRI CHINDRALAL SINGHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Steel Policy for the development of Rural and Backward Areas;

(b) the action taken up-to-date for the fulfilment of the said policy;

(c) whether it is a fact that while the demand for the Rural and Backward Areas was denied, huge quantity of Steel was available in the open market; and

(d) if so, the detailed reason thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) Government has asked the main producers to take necessary steps to promote consumption of steel in the rural sector of the economy.

(b) A Study Team of SAIL has identified about 50 items made of iron and steel that can be used in the rural areas. Initially SAIL proposes to organise manufacture of some of these items through local entrepreneurs in four pilot workshops one each in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. Further plans on the subject will be decided on receipt of the results of the pilot workshops. In addition, SAIL

with the help of professional Institutes, is conducting surveys in the rural areas to identify avenues for promoting consumption of steel. SAIL is also engaged in the development of improved models of bullock-carts.

(c) The needs of the rural and backward areas have not been overlooked.

(d) Does not arise.

Joint Plant Committee

2678. SHRI SACHINDRALAL SINGHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Joint Plant Committee set-up in 1975 has been abandoned;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken up-to-date replacing the Joint Plant Committee and the result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir. However, the Joint Plant Committee was set up in 1964 and not in 1975.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dead Telephones in Delhi

2679. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA:

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the press reports in THE TIMES OF INDIA dated the 30th May, 1978 wherein it has been stated that several