

Availability of HMT Watch Components to Selected Organisations for assembly

2695. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to make available HMT watch components to selected organisations in the various States which would set up assembly units;

(b) whether State Governments have been consulted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of State Governments thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD):

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) Not yet, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Central Marketing Organisation for Steel

2696. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Study Group on the Steel distribution system recommended to set up a Central Marketing Organisation for steel; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendation has been accepted in principle.

Studies by SAIL on the working of Steel Units

2697. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India has carried out studies on the utilisation of the existing installed working of the different Steel units;

(b) if so, the problems that have been identified; and

(c) the main features of a time-bound programme drawn up to achieve a break-through in maximum utilisation of the existing installed capacity?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) to (c). The Steel Authority of India together with the Management of the Steel Plants, has been closely involved in carrying out studies and trying to work out solutions for the more critical and priority problems of the steel plants, such as:

(i) The very difficult situation resulting from a severe power crisis causing loss of production due to interruptions in the working of coal washeries and the direct cut in power to steel plants.

(ii) Matters connected with movement of raw materials and finished goods in the context of the heavy load placed on the rail system due to abnormal traffic movement of foodgrains, etc.

(iii) Improving the steel distribution procedures and systems in close consultation with the Iron and Steel Controller and principal consumer bodies.

(iv) More rational distribution of coking coal.

(v) Close follow-up of work connected with erection of