

Production of Billets

2598. **SHRI J. MOHAMED IMAM :**
SHRI TENNETI
VISWANATHAM :
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :
SHRI D. R. PARMAR :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of billets by the main steel plants in 1967-68 was substantially higher than at any time before ;

(b) whether the main steel plants could not consume the billets in proportion to the installed capacities of their finishing mills and hence offered a relatively much larger tonnage of billets for sale in 1967-68 than in the past ;

(c) whether the non-utilisation of the finishing mills' capacities was essentially due to the recession in the economy ; and

(d) whether the off-take by the re-rollers was on par with what they had received in 1966-67, even though they too were affected by recession in 1967-68 and even though they could not do advance planning because the main steel plants did not agree to furnish them necessary information on the likely billet availability in spite of repeated requests from the re-rollers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) :
 (a) to (d). The production of billets for sale in 1967-68 was more by about 80,000 tonnes than in 1966-67. The higher availability was partly due to recession and partly due to the fact that the Wire Rod Mill of the Bhilai Steel Plant was not ready for commissioning. Despatches of billets to parties in India during 1967-68 were 10,13,000 tonnes as compared to 11,14,000 tonnes in 1966-67. Lower off-take in 1967-68 could be due to economic recession in the country.

Closure of Re-Rolling Mills

2599. **SHRI J. MOHAMED IMAM :**
SHRI TENNETI
VISWANATHAM :

SHRI HUKAM CHAND

KACHWAI :
SHRI J. H. PATEL :
SHRI GEORGE
FERNANDES :
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :
SHRI D. R. PARMAR :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government or the Iron and Steel Controller has received any intimation about the closure of re-rolling mills in the last few months ;

(b) if so, from how many mills and for what reasons ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent such occurrences ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) :
 (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Production at Bhilai

2600. **SHRI J. MOHAMED IMAM :**
SHRI HUKAM CHAND
KACHWAI :
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :
SHRI D. R. PARMAR :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) the planned capacity of the rail and structural mill at Bhilai and the actual production during 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Bhilai rail mill is rolling 18 metre rails at present for which it was not designed and that the production is considerably lower than the rated capacity ;

(c) the net revenue per day to Hindustan Steel Ltd. in the production of the rails for (i) domestic use in 13m lengths and (ii) exports in 18m lengths ; and

(d) the net revenue per day by rolling 80mm and 100 mm billets on the above mill ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) :
 (a) The rated capacity of the Rail and