

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research has made any study and made recommendations on the long-term projections for iron and steel in the country ; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of Government in regard to the recommendations made by Council ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b). According to the latest study made by the NCAER the domestic demand for finished mild Steel would be 7.125 million tonnes in 1970-71 and 10.512 million tonnes in 1975-76. The demand for foundry grade pig iron was assessed by the NCAER at 1.795 million tonnes in 1970-71 and at 2.392 million tonnes in 1975-76. The details of the study can be seen in the Publication of the NCAER titled "Long Term Projections for Iron and Steel" published in 1968.

(c) On the basis of the Report of the NCAER and further assumptions, the Steering Group on Iron and Steel assessed the domestic demand for finished steel market pig iron by 1973-74 at about 7.12 million tonnes and 1.95 million tonnes respectively. This has been accepted for the IV Plan.

Since the Report submitted by the NCAER has become somewhat out of date and in view of the decision to set up 3 new steel plants, Government have requested the NCAER to carry out a fresh study of the demand for steel in 1975-76 and 1980-81

CORRECTIONS OF ANSWER TO US  
Q. NO. 5368 DATED 7-4-1969 RE.  
GANDHI MEMORIAL FUND

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA

CHARAN SHUKLA) : In reply to Unstarred Question No. 5368 on 7th April, 1969, it was stated that, from the information readily available, it appears that, apart from giving the land measuring 7.10 acres on a nominal rent of Rs. 1.00 per annum for Gandhi Museum and associated buildings, no other contribution have been made by the Central Government to the Gandhi Memorial Fund. This was based on the information received from the Secretary of the Fund, replies from other concerned parties having not been received at the time of reply. The Department of Works, Housing and Urban Development have since informed, and Secretary of the Fund has confirmed, that land actually in possession of the Fund is 5.936 acres and not 7.10 acres. The reply is to be modified accordingly.

11.58 hrs.

RE : MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT  
(QUERIES)

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we gave notice of adjournment motions over the failure of the Government of India in deciding about a steel plant in Orissa in spite of expert opinion that it will be most profitable and economical to have it there in the Fourth Plan period.

MR. SPEAKER : There is the next item, calling-attention.

SHRI P. K. DEO : In spite of all those recommendations the Government has failed in that. If a decision on a steel plant is taken on a political basis, we do not mind; let the Southern States have their steel plants, but at the same time Orissa's claim cannot be overlooked. It has overlooked Orissa's complaints and there has been a complete *bandh* in Orissa. Unless we project the feeling of the people of Orissa in this forum, where and when shall we express it ? It is most appropriate occasion to censure the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : His leader is not asking him to sit down. Will you please sit down or not ?

**SHRI P. K. DEO :** We cannot participate in the proceedings if it is disallowed. Orissa demands steel plant; Orissa demands steel plant.

12.00 hrs.

*Shri P. K. Deo and some other Members then left the House.*

**SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kandrapara) :** All that we want is to have a discussion on this matter in the House.

**MR. SPEAKER :** But that is not the way.

**SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY :** We have given an adjournment motion. Either you admit the adjournment motion, or you provide some time for a discussion on this matter.

**MR. SPEAKER :** The next item is the Call Attention Notice. Let it be disposed of. Shri S. K. Tapuriah.

**SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh) :** Sir, may I request you to felicitate our wrestlers who have retrieved the honour of our country by winning a gold medal? I want the House, through you, Sir, to felicitate the wrestlers. *(Interruption)*

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यहाँ भी कैसे कैसे पहलवान आ गये हैं।

**SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH (Pali) :** I will have to learn wrestling if this continues in this way.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You are all old parliamentarians, very learned people. There is a way of doing things. There is a procedure for that. I hope nobody will disturb now.

12.01 hrs.

# CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RE. DEVASTATING FLOODS IN ALAKNANDA

**SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH (Pali) :** I call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :—

"The devastating floods in Alaknanda washing away about 200 persons and several buses, taxis and Army trucks."

**THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) :** Heavy rains occurred in Western Himalayas on 20th July, 1970. Joshimath recorded 22 cm. of rain during 24 hours ending at 03.30 AM on 21st July. In consequence, there were flash floods in the River Alaknanda and its tributaries. There were also a number of landslides leading to blockages in the main river and also in some of its tributaries specially the Pathalaganga one mile upstream of Belakuchi. These blockages suddenly gave way resulting in a quick rise in the level of the river Alaknanda at about 7 PM on 20th July, 1970. The water rose by about 15 metres above the road level near Belakuchi. In this reach, the road level is only about 15 metres above the river bed. The sudden abnormal rise of water level engulfed and washed away a large number of vehicles—13 buses, 5 taxis, 6 trucks and one army vehicle totaling 25 vehicles—trapped on the road near Belakuchi. In addition, a number of bridge were also washed away leading to the disruption of traffic especially between Pipalkoti and Joshimath.

Birahi Ganga is a tributary joining on the left side of the river Alaknanda about 10 km. upstream of Chamoli. On this tributary Birahi Ganga, there has been a lake known as Gohana Lake 24 km. from the road. This is not a natural lake but was formed in 1893 by landslides blocking the stream. The bund so formed was stated to be 275 m. high and completely