

and private sectors) is being fully utilised?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). The production of iron and steel in 1961-62 was as below:

	Pig iron for sale	Steel ingots
	(in tonnes)	
Bhilai Steel Project .	446,000	789,000
Rourkela Steel Project	117,000	354,000
Durgapur Steel Project	290,000	463,000
TISCO	1,650,000
IISCO	240,000	930,000
	1,093,000	4,186,000

The above production was against the target for production of 4.8 million tons of steel ingots in the first year (1961-62) of the Third Five Year Plan.

(c) No, Sir. The rated capacity of the plants is 1 million ton of ingots, except TISCO where the rated capacity is 2 million tons. By the end of the year 1961-62, the steel plants of TATAS, IISCO and Bhilai Steel Project had achieved a rate of production of more than 90% of the rated capacity; the production of the Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Projects is still below the full rated capacity. Their production is expected to come up after all the units of these two plants are fully commissioned.

Scrap Committee

408. Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of the committee which was appointed to examine the scrap problem in the country; and

(b) by what time Government are likely to complete the examination of these recommendations?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). The Scrap Committee's Report is being examined and Government's decisions will be announced shortly.

Iron Ore Fines

409. Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of iron ore fines available in India;

(b) what are the possible uses of the above; and

(c) what quantity is exported?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Pieces of iron ore of less than $\frac{1}{2}$ " in size are generally known as iron ore fines because, as such, they cannot generally be charged into blast furnaces. The percentage production of such fines in iron-ore mining was limited so long mining was mainly by manual methods and of boulders and such float ore. The substantial expansion of iron-ore production required lately has necessitated, however, large scale mining of massive deposits including removal of overburden and increasing use of mechanised equipment for the purpose; under these changed conditions, depending particularly on the nature of the deposits, the production of such fines ranges between 25 to 40 p.c. of the run off mine ore. Though no exact statistics are available for all iron-ore mines, a special study was made little over a year ago of the large mines using mechanical equipment in the Bihar-Orissa area and it was found that already dumps totalling about 6 million tons of such fines had accumulated; the available quantity of such fines, further, is increasing as iron-ore production expands and mechanical mining of massive deposits has to be done.

(b) The economic utilisation of such fines, therefore, is already being contemplated. Sintering is the most common process used elsewhere; in this country, sintering plants have already been installed in the Steel Plants at Jamshedpur, Bhadravti, and Bhilai; a