

Steel Rolling Mills in Punjab

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*628. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:

Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Fuel** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned the setting up of any steel rolling mills in Punjab State; and

(b) if so, the places where these will be located?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha): (a) No, Sir. But as the Hon'ble Members are aware, there is no restriction on the establishment of small re-rolling mills employing less than 50 workers and using scrap locally available. There is no information about such mills which may have been put up in the Punjab State.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Punjab Government has asked for additional quota of steel in order to meet the requirements of the steel rolling mills and other mills in the current year?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: As far as re-rolling mills are concerned, there is no question of additional quota of steel. It is a question of probably additional quota of billets. Actually, the rated capacity of the present re-rolling mills is 2.1 million tons on a three shift basis. We are supplying on one-shift basis. There may be shortage of billets. Therefore, actually, we are not in a position to have new units of re-rolling mills in those States which have already got it.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that there is no such mill in the backward area of Punjab and if so, whether any such mill will be set up in that area?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: It is very difficult for me to say which area is backward and which area is

advanced. Punjab is an advanced State itself in comparison to many others States. It has ample capacity in re-rolling in the State.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know whether more than 50 per cent of rolling mills are situated in Punjab only and may I know whether rolling mills will be situated in Saurashtra, Gujarat, U.P. and other States also where there are no rolling mills?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: I am not able to say what percentage of the re-rolling mills is situated in Punjab. Actually, in Punjab and Bengal, we have a greater number of re-rolling mills in comparison with other States, in this country.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: May I ask is it not a fact that Mohindergarh district has possibility of collection of scrap and possibility of ore? Is there a proposal to set up one if an offer is made by some industry?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: As far as Mohindergarh district is concerned, I have no particular information. I have already stated that if any one wants to have re-rolling from local scrap and employ less than 50 persons there is no restriction to have a re-rolling mill.

Khetri Copper Project

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*629. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri P. G. Deb:
Shri Chuni Lal:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
Shri S. A. Mehdi:
Maharajkumar Vijaya Ananda:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of **Steel, Mines and Fuel** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed regarding the **Khetri Copper Project**; and

(b) if so, the details of the same?