

**Demand and production of steel**

\*253. SHRI LOKANATH CHOU-DHURY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated requirement and production of steel in the country at present;

(b) whether the production of steel insufficient to meet the requirement; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) Production of finished steel in 1990-91 was about 13.4 million tonnes against the assessed demand of about 15.5 million tonnes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Steps taken to increase domestic production of steel include—

Modernisation of steel plants and improved maintenance of plant and equipment for achieving increased productivity;

Monitoring of supply of inputs, particularly coal and power, to the steel plants for ensuring uninterrupted production;

Increase in captive power generation;

Adoption of better technological and manpower discipline in SAIL plants;

Delicensing of the steel sector, with certain conditions where substantial foreign exchange is involved so as to allow establishment of new plants in the private sector.

The domestic availability is supplemented with imports, to the extent possible within the overall constraints of the availability of foreign exchange.

**Bifurcation of Cuttack Postal Division in Orissa**

\*254. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for bifurcation of the existing Cuttack North Postal Division into two separate Postal Divisions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these two separate Postal Divisions are likely to start functioning independently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for bifurcating Cuttack North Postal Division into two separate Postal Divisions namely, Jajpur and Kendrapara has been received.

(c) It has been decided not to bifurcate Cuttack North Division on considerations of economy and in administrative interest.

[*Translation*]

**Return of Indians to Gulf Countries**

\*255. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL  
PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who have returned to Kuwait, Iraq and other Gulf countries after the end of the Gulf war, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government have assessed the assets left behind by Indians in Gulf countries during the war; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV-SINH SOLANKI): (a) According