

<i>Year</i>	<i>Fleet Strength</i>		<i>Manpower</i>	
1988-89	DO-228		10	1303
	HS-748	07		
	F-27	04		
	Total	21		
1989-90	DO-228		08	1767
	HS-748	10		
	F-27	02		
	Total	20		
1990-91	DO-228		08	1814
	HS-748	09		
	F-27	01		
	Total	18		

(b) Yes, Sir.

the reasons therefor;

(c) A complete ban on further recruitments has been imposed in Vayudoot. Efforts are on to absorb eligible Vayudoot employees in other organisations.

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment of the impact of decontrol of steel on its prices vis-a vis on steel user industries;

**Decontrol of Steel**

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

\*181. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:  
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR  
BANSAL:

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the prices of steel?

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH  
MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new policy for iron and steel;

(b) Salient features of deregulation of iron and steel are as follows:

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and

- (i) Abolition of price and distribution regulation on iron and steel with effect from 6 01 1992, while retaining partial distribution regulation in respect of some sensitive sectors
- (ii) The requirements of Defence, Railways, the Small Scale Industries Sector, exporters of Engineering goods and the North Eastern Region will continue to be met on priority as hitherto at prices that may be announced by the producers from time to time. The Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel will oversee compliance of this arrangement
- (iii) The levies on account of the Steel Development Fund, Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund and the JPC cess will continue to be realised by the JPC on the ex works prices of the integrated steel plants (excluding IISCO)
- (iv) The scheme of freight equalisation on Iron and steel has been abolished. The main producers i.e. SAIL, VSP and TISCO will fix ex stockyard prices on the basis of the actual freight or the freight elements as existed prior to deregulation under the Freight Equalisation Scheme (Rs 956 per tonne on steel items and Rs 645 per tonne on pig

iron, till these are revised), whichever is less.

- (v) Import duties have been reduced from 35% to 10% on steel melting scrap, from 55% to 35% on pig iron, and from 65% to 45% on billets and HR coils, so as to facilitate imports to supplement domestic availability

The main reasons for deregulation are as follows

- to enhance the efficiency and international competitiveness in the steel sector,

- to provide requisite environment for the creation of new capacities in the private sector for meeting the increasing requirements of the future, and

- to enable the public sector steel plants to generate additional resources to fund their modernisation and expansion programmes

(c) and (d) The main producers have not increased the prices, so far, on account of deregulation. There has been mixed trend in the open market prices after deregulation in different centres and for different categories of iron and steel, without any sharp fluctuations

(e) To supplement domestic production through imports, import duties have been

reduced as indicated at (b) (v) above. This, coupled with creation of new capacities in the private sector, is expected to moderate the price increase.

#### Telephone Facility to Gram Panchayats

\*182. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:  
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats provided with telephone facility so far, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of village provided telephone facility State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide telephone facility to all the Gram Panchayats;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which telephone facility is likely to be provided to all the Panchayats in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) & (b). 61330 Panchayat Villages have been provided with telephone facility as on 29.2.1992. Details are shown in the statement attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). Progressively by 31.5.1995 subject to availability of resources.

#### STATEMENT

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Circle</i>	<i>(a)</i> <i>Gram Panchayats</i> <i>with telephones.</i> <i>as on 29.2.1992</i>	<i>(b)</i> <i>% with telephones</i>
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9431	48.3
2.	Assam	537	75.2
3.	Bihar	3891	33.3
4.	Gujarat	3794	28.9
5.	Haryana	1976	34.1
6.	Himachal Pradesh	906	34.9
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	447	30.6
8.	Karnataka	4286	51.4
9.	Kerala	981	99.9