

(d) The statement below indicates mill composite listed price of carbon steel in some of the major steel producing countries abroad and average net sales realisation of SAIL for the year 1985 :

<i>Name of the country</i>	<i>Rs. per tonne</i>
USA	7747
Japan	5268
West Germany	4553
U. K.	4767
France	4288
India (SAIL)	5350

[English]

Mysterious Gas Blast at Bhilai Steel Plant

1098. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD :
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD
SINGH :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report appearing in the 'Current' dated 18, January, 1986 captioned "Mysterious gas blast at Bhilai Steel" on January 6, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof with loss of life and property;

(c) whether any inquiry has since been conducted; and

(d) if so, the findings of the inquiry and the action taken to avoid such recurrences ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An accident took place at about 9.15 A.M. on 6th January, 1986 in the Coke Oven Department of Bhilai Steel Plant while work was in progress to repair a leakage in a gas pipe line. As a result of this accident there was a drop in oven pushings and a loss of production of 1690 tonnes of coke.

44 persons were injured out of whom 9 died subsequently. The injured persons were given prompt medical attention. A special ward was created to treat them. Specialists from Rourkela Steel Plant Hospital and Post-Graduate Institute, Chandigarh, who were specially called to attend to the injured had confirmed that medical arrangements made and treatment given was adequate and satisfactory. Medicines were arranged by getting some of them from abroad also.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Inquiry has established that while repair work was being carried out on a pipe leading to the coke oven, there was leakage of gas leading to fire and explosion. The Inquiry has further held that no work procedures were violated, as such no one in particular has been held responsible for the accident.

Appropriate safety measures are adopted in the steel plants of Steel Authority of India Limited while carrying out repair work in accident prone areas. There is a full fledged Safety Department headed by a Senior Officer at Bhilai. Steel Authority of India Limited has also appointed a Safety Expert to suggest further measures to improve the safety aspects in their steel plants.

National Conference on Agricultural Marketing

1099. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a National Conference on Agricultural Marketing was held in January, 1986 in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the names of persons who participated in the conference; and

(c) the nature of discussions held and decisions arrived at ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.