

(b) to (d). State-wise details of individual units running in profit and loss are not maintained in this Ministry.

[Translation]

### Production of Steel

2947. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to increase the production of raw iron, sponge iron and steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(c) the percentage of increase registered in the production of raw iron, sponge iron and steel during the current year in comparison to last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. During the last three years the Government have taken a number of steps to increase the production of iron and steel in the country. Modernisation and expansion of public sector steel plants has been taken up. Government also have adopted various policy measures to facilitate and encourage the creation of additional iron and steel production capacities in the private sector. These include :-

- (i) removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for public sector;
- (ii) exemption of iron and steel industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing;
- (iii) inclusion of iron and steel in the list of high priority industries for purposes of foreign investment;
- (iv) de-regulation of pricing and distribution of iron and steel;
- (v) reduction of duty on import of capital goods; and
- (vi) liberalisation of import and export policy.

(c) Production of pig iron, Sponge iron and Saleable steel during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 and percentage of increase during 1994-95 over the last two years were as under :-

	Production (in '000 tonnes)			Percentage of increase during 1994-95 over :-	
	92-93	93-94	94-95	92-93	93-94
(1) Pig iron	1844	2250	2721	48%	21%
(2) Sponge iron	1441	2396	2950	105%	23%
(3) Saleable steel	15749	15906	17145	9%	8%

### Housing Schemes by Bihar Government

2948. SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar have forwarded certain housing schemes to the Union Government for its approval and have sought financial assistance for the same;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have accorded approval to all the schemes; and

(c) if so, the financial assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government for each of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) No, Sir. Central Government do not extend financial assistance to State Government directly for Urban Housing.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

### Issue of Passports

2949. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :  
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the passport applications pending as on April 1, 1992 and as on March 30, 1995, passport office wise;

(b) the number of passport applications pending in the various passport offices after the completion of police verification;

(c) the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government are aware of huge crowds of applicants in the Regional Passport Office, in Delhi and the thriving of several touts there; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA) : (a) the number of passport applications pending as on April 1, 1992 and as on March 30, 1995, passport wise is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c). The figures of pendency following receipt of Police Verification are not collected since the endeavour is to issue passports after one month even in cases where police verification report is not received. 17 out of 23 Passport Offices are issuing passports within two months of receipt of application.

(d) and (e). In 1994 (January-December), the total number of applications received by Regional Passport