

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to increase the production and ensure price stability ?

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

(b) The Joint Plant Committee of main producers had assessed the demand for steel over the last 5 years as follows :

(Million tonnes)

Year	Demand
1980-81	10.2
1981-82	10.5
1982-83	9.8
1983-84	9.9
1984-85	9.0

Per capita steel consumption in India is 17 Kg. and is not the lowest among all countries. During the last 5 years the price realisation for the main producers was increased on 7 occasions.

(c) Production depends on various factors like health of the plant, adequate availability of the right quality of inputs and power and the market needs. Efforts are being made to ensure adequate availability of inputs of the right quality so as to enable the plants to increase their production. Efforts are also being made to maintain cordial industrial relations and to inculcate a new work culture, adhere to technological parameters, better maintenance and to improve productivity. As a long term measure output of steel in the country will also be increased by technological upgradation of existing plants and setting up of new plants.

Price also depends on various factors like cost of inputs, wages and salaries, railway freight, duties and levies. Steps have been taken to contain cost of production which is expected to be controlled through higher production and productivity, better utilisation of capacities, better technological norms, saving in energy utilisation and containment of labour costs. These objectives will be achieved in the 7th Plan through technological upgradation, better maintenance and debottlenecking of the plant.

Import of Cotton and its effect in the Internal Market

1900. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of cotton imported this season and the details of distribution of this cotton to the textile mills;

(b) whether the import of this cotton has dampening effect on the prices of cotton in the internal market; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in enabling cotton growers to get remunerative price for different varieties of cotton this season ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) A quantity of 75,000 bales of cotton has been imported by the Cotton Corporation of India on National Textile Corporation's account.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The minimum support prices of different varieties of kapas have already been announced by Government and the Cotton Corporation of India has been directed to undertake price support operations whenever the prices tend to fall below the support level. Government have also released a substantial quantity for export during the current cotton season.

Decision to set up High Level Committee for personal Taxation

1901. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :
SHRI MANIK REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision recently to set up a high level committee to go into the question of reform of the structure for personal taxation in the country;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee; and