

[English]

Loss to SAIL by export of steel plates

3803. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited is incurring a loss of about Rs. 800/- per metric tonne, by exporting steel plates at international prices;

(b) if so, the total loss so incurred during each of the last three years and current year;

(c) the steps taken to eliminate these losses and the results thereof; and

(d) whether the cost of production of major varieties of steel in India is higher than that in other developed countries; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) The Steel Authority of India Limited incurs losses by exporting steel plates at international prices. The quantum of loss, however, varies from contract to contract depending upon the export price realised.

(b) During 1985-86, there was no export of plates. As it is not in the commercial interest of SAIL to divulge the cost of production, the difference between the net realisation from export and that from domestic market at net stockyard prices during 1984-85 and 1986-87 on the quantity of plates exported is furnished below:—

Year	Difference in Rs. crores
1984-85	0.71
1985-86	NIL
1986-87	13.75

The difference in realisation during 1987-88 will depend on the quantity exported and the export prices realised.

(c) Efforts are being made to further process the plates for which there is no/inadequate demand at present in the domestic market, to produce thinner sheets/coils for which there is a demand. This is expected to eliminate the losses.

(d) No authentic information on cost of production of non-alloy steel in developed countries is available for comparison with the cost of production of such varieties in India. In the absence of this data, it is not possible to conclude whether the cost of production of steel in India is higher than the cost of production of steel in the developed countries.

Schools in N.F. Railway (Alipurduar Junction)

3804. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Schools already established for the railway employees of North Frontier Railway in particular and to facilitate education for the linguistic minorities in general;

(b) the number of such high schools in this railway zone to be started during the Seventh Plan period;

(c) whether any such school has been sanctioned to be opened at Alipurduar Junction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Four.

(b) to (d). It is proposed to establish two more Central Schools—one each at Alipurduar Junction and New Bongaigaon, on N.F. Railway subject to approval of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. There are no other fresh proposals for the present.