

(b) If so, the reasons of steep fall in ground water levels in those states;

(c) whether lakes are drying up and ponds silting up in those States; and

(d) if so, how Government intend to adopt re-charging process in the affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons are mainly fluctuation in rainfall resulting in drought conditions and consequent increased ground water withdrawals.

(c) Water levels in lakes have registered fall.

(d) Measures already under implementation include land and water management projects *viz.*, afforestation, contour bunding, nala plugging and construction and renovation of percolation tanks, and operational artificial recharge projects.

Reserved Seats for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in Delhi University

718. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several seats in colleges of Delhi set apart for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students remain unfilled during the current academic session;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to fully utilise the above seats for the benefit of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI-MATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) According to

the Delhi University, admissions to various courses in Delhi University and Colleges for the current academic session are still in progress.

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

Expansion of Public Sector Steel Plants

719 SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public sector steel plant units which are under expansion and are yet to be commissioned;

(b) whether there are any units which have already been commissioned but are lying idle or are working below their utilisation capacity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) The following three plants of SAIL are being expanded at present —

1. Bhilai Steel Plant from 2.5 MT ingot steel capacity to 4 MT capacity;
2. Bokaro Steel Plant from 1.7 MT ingot steel capacity to 5 MT capacity; and
3. Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur, from 160,000 tonnes per annum to 260,000 tonnes per annum of crude steel capacity.

(b) and (c). The Bhilai Steel Plant is being expanded from 2.5 MT to 4 MT per annum of crude steel

Against the expanded capacity of 1.5 MT of crude steel, capacity utilisation of this facility in 1986-87 was 47%. Capacity utilisation of the saleable steel facilities under the expansion programme (1.188 million tonnes) was 47% in 1986-87.

The expansion scheme also provided for facilities for additional production of 0.93 million tonnes of hot metal. These facilities have not yet been commissioned but with the use of hot metal from the existing facilities, it was calculated that in 1986-87 the interim crude steel and saleable steel capacities of the expansion facilities were 0.9 MT and 0.7 MT respectively and these had a capacity utilisation of 78% in both cases in 1986-87.

The low capacity utilisation of the crude steel and saleable steel facilities already set up under the expansion scheme are on account of inadequate availability of hot metal. The hot metal facility would be commissioned by about the end of 1987-88.

The Bokaro Steel plant is under expansion from 1.7 million tonnes to 4 million tonnes of crude steel per annum

The facilities for manufacture of hot metal have been fully commissioned and in 1986-87 these had a capacity utilisation of 74%.

The additional crude steel under the expansion scheme was estimated to provide 2.3 million tonnes per annum. Part of this (about 0.8 million tonnes) was to come by expansion of the earlier units and 1.5 million tonnes was to come from the new Steel Melting Shop-II (SMS-II). The capacity utilisation of SMS-II was about 54% in 1986-87.

Similarly, the additional 1.80 million tonnes of saleable steel that is to be produced under the expansion scheme was expected to be made up of a new Cold Rolling Mill (CRM) to give 1.185 million tonnes of saleable steel and the balance 0.616 million tonnes by expansion of the existing units. The CRM is still under construction and is expected to be commissioned by the end of 1987-88.

The reason for low production of crude steel which also affects production of saleable steel, is on account of shortage of

oxygen, this shortage is expected to be overcome by about June, 1988.

The third Scheme of expansion is being carried out at the Alloy Steels Plant of SAIL at Durgapur. Its crude steel capacity is being increased from 0.16 million tonnes to 0.26 million tonnes per annum. This expansion is expected to be completed in September, 1987.

Appointment of Staff Nurses on ad-hoc Basis in Central Government Hospitals

720. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the last few years Staff Nurses are being appointed only on ad-hoc basis in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Dehli and other Central Government Hospitals;

(b) if so, the reason thereof; and

(c) what measures are being taken by Government to regularise the services of such ad-hoc employees?

THE MINISTER OR STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Nurses are mainly recruited on a regular basis. However, ad-hoc appointments of staff nurses have been made primarily against unfilled vacancies reserved for SC/ST until suitable candidates belonging to these categories are available.

(c) At present there is no proposal to regularise the services of such ad-hoc employees.

Manufacturing Cost of Wheel Sets

721. SHRI Y S MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of a wheel set made at the Railways Wheel and Axle Plant (WAP) at Bangalore was Rs. 30,400 during