

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c). The guidelines for grant of Industrial Licenses for Steel Industry including the expansion of capacities of mini steel plants are under review. These guidelines have taken into consideration the projections of demand and availability of steel for the future.

(d) and (e). A group has been constituted to identify measures for modernisation of mini steel plants by adoption of latest technology available in electric steel-making. Upgradation of technology in mini steel plants is likely to result in considerable saving in electric power consumption.

#### **Freight computerisation**

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

(a) whether the Railways have been considering freight computerisation for the last 4 years and have received proposals from West Germany and National Informatics Centre (NIC);

(b) if so, whether these proposals have been evaluated;

(c) the agency which has done the evaluation; and

(d) the final decision, if any, taken in the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The project on computerisation of Freight Operations Information System (Freight OIS) was sanctioned during 1982-83. A detailed Project Document was prepared by Indian Railways in October, 1986 with the assistance of Consultants, namely, M/s CANAC of Canada, and M/s DETECON of West Germany. A proposal from NIC has been received in April, 1987.

(b) to (d). The proposal received from NIC is under examination by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), and

is under discussion with NIC/Department of Electronics.

#### **Losses suffered by mini steel plants**

845. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESHWARI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether crisis have arisen due to continuing losses by mini steel plants;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) what action is being contemplated to overcome the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b). Steel Furnace Association of India and Federation of Engineering Industries of India have represented to the Government regarding problems faced by mini steel plants. It has been represented that due to increase in input costs and fall in selling price of ingots, the mini steel plants are incurring cash losses.

(c) The custom duty on import of scrap has been reduced by 5% ad valorem with effect from 4th December, 1986 and adequate quantity of scrap has been made available to mini steel plants, through increased imports.

#### **EEC help for modernisation of mini steel industry**

846. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESHWARI:  
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

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

(a) whether European Economic Community is considering to help the Mini Steel Industry in India for its modernisation;

(b) if so, whether a high level Indian delegation representing members of various agencies visited the European Economic Community countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether any agreement was reached; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by what time the agreement is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (d). An Indian Steel Delegation comprising of Government officials and representatives of Steel Furnace Association of India, at the invitation of European Economic Community, visited some EEC countries in June, 1987, with a view to acquainting themselves with the technology of electric-steel making prevalent in these countries. Further action will be considered after the submission of the report by the Delegation to the Government.

**Railway Accident near Cannanore Station in Calicut**

847. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:  
SHRI S. PALAKONDRAYUDU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 30 people were injured when a loose wagon of a goods train collided with the Malabar Express near Cannanore Station in Calicut on 8th July, 1987;

(b) if so, whether this was the second accident in the first week of July, 1987;

(c) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted into the causes of those accidents; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) On 8th July 1987, while an engine was being attached to the empty coaching rake of No. 523 Down, at the Mangalore end of Cannanore station, the rake rolled down into the block section and collided with 29 Down Trivandrum-Mangalore Express resulting

in grievous injuries to 2 and simple injuries to 20 persons.

(b) No, Sir. This was the only accident.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The accident occurred due to bump caused to the empty rake while attaching the engine.

**Road Accidents**

848. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:  
SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:  
CH. RAM PRAKASH:  
SHRI D.P. JADEJA:  
SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several thousand people are killed every year in road accidents in the country;

(b) whether country's accident rate per 10,000 vehicles was over three times higher and fatality rate nearly 15 times higher compared to rate of accidents in developed countries;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(d) whether any concrete programme has been considered to reduce the rate of road accidents; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The number of persons killed in road accidents in India are as under:

Year	No. of persons killed
1984	34722
1985	39047
1986	40590 (Estimated)