

Jordan, France, Federal Republic of Germany and German Democratic Republic.

Supply of Steel to Exporters

10264. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited proposes to supply off-the-shelf select items of steel to exporters during 1988;

(b) if so, whether this scheme has been prepared in collaboration with the Engineering Export Promotion Council;

(c) whether items have since been identified for export;

(d) whether it will improve the supply of steel to the exporters without loss of time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), after discussion with the Engineering Export Promotion Council, have agreed in principle to consider supplying, off the shelf, certain large consumption items at a few identified locations to the exporters of engineering goods.

(c) to (e). SAIL has requested the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) to provide the list of items, consumption and locations, to consider the feasibility and efficacy of the scheme.

Technology Mission Schemes to Provide Scientific and Technical Assistance

10265. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK: SHRI H.B. PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Technology Missions' under his Ministry have recently launched schemes to provide scientific and technical assistance and grants to small and marginal farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to publish journals in regional languages so as to enable the farmers to know the latest developments in farm technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) and (b). Two Technology Missions are functioning under the Ministry of Agriculture, namely, National Technology Mission on Drinking Water and on Oilseeds. Under the National Oilseeds Development Project undertaken in 17 States, technical assistance is provided to all farmers for increasing oilseeds productivity. But small and marginal farmers get preference in financial assistance. For example, input kits consisting of certified seeds of improved varieties, seed treatment chemicals (bio-fertilizers in the case of groundnut & soybean) are given free of cost to only small and marginal farmers, particularly of scheduled castes and tribes. 50% subsidy with a ceiling of Rs. 300 per piece is again available only to small & marginal farmers, for purchase of plant protection equipment. Purchase of sprinkler sets will be assisted to extent of 50% of the cost for small & marginal farmers; other farmers will be subsidised only to the extent of 25%; the maximum