

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has launched an ambitious multi-faced programme to revolutionise its communication system within a year;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof and the estimated capital outlay involved;

(c) the beneficial results achieved thereby so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Special Communication systems are being introduced in SAIL's Voice Communication Network on leased circuits from the department of telecommunications. SAIL's Data Communication Network, which is satellite based, will supplement the Voice Communication Network.

SAIL has also initiated action for setting up a Radio Communication Network for its captive mines located in the Bonai range near Rourkela. This will provide simultaneous voice and data communication over this area.

The above new communication systems in its first phase are estimated to cost around Rs. 3 crores.

(c) The beneficial results from the new communication systems will be known after they are made operational by end of 1988.

#### Construction of Modern Stock Yards at Madras and Cochin

8254. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited propose to construct modern stockyards at Madras and Cochin at a cost of Rs. 30 crores, to meet the raw material requirements of industries in the southern region;

(b) whether the requirement of steel items in the southern region is likely to reach one million tonnes shortly; and

(c) 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) SAIL is developing a stockyard at Madras at an estimated cost of Rs. 20 crores. Acquisition proceedings are also on for a suitable plot of land near Cochin.

(b) and (c). Demand estimates of steel items are not maintained on a regional basis.

#### Shortage of Pig Iron

8255. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL .

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

(a) the production of pig iron in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the annual demand of pig iron in the country;

(c) whether the production of pig iron is much less than the demand and a large quantity of pig iron is being imported;

(d) whether a large number of small scale units have been closed down due to non-availability of pig iron; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures being contemplated in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). The annual estimated demand, production and canalised imports of pig iron during the last 3 years have been as follows—

(1000 tonnes)

Year	Estimated Demand	Production	Canalised imports through MMTC
1985-86	1470	1250	Nil
1986-87	1540	1358	14
1987-88	1500	1302 (Prov.)	18