

(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

(d) and (e). No such specific reports have been received by the Government.

Development of Dryland Farming

8256. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a big scope to develop dryland farming in the country;

(b) if so, the crops which can be produced on dryland;

(c) the plan chalked out for development of dry farming in the country, if any; and

(d) the statewise area which has been brought under the dryland farming programme so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main crops which are produced on dryland areas are coarse cereals like jowar, bajra and maize, rice, gram and other pulses; oilseeds like groundnut, rapeseed and mustard, cotton, etc.

(c) A number of programmes have been taken up during VII Plan under the State and Central Sectors for the development of dryland farming. This includes the recently launched (1986-87) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture at a total outlay of Rs. 239 crores.

(d) The State-wise targeted coverage of area under this scheme during the last two years is as under—

S. No.	State	Targeted coverage of area during 1986-87 and 1987-88 (hectares)
1	2	3
1.	Andhrá Pradesh	29,442
2.	Assam	1,600
3.	Bihār	4,000

1	2	3
4.	Gujarat	16,000
5.	Haryana	4,465
6.	Himachal Pradesh	482
7.	Karnataka	60,654
8.	Kerala	1,800
9.	Madhya Pradesh	7,700
10.	Maharashtra	76,202
11.	Orissa	1,398
12.	Punjab	1,535
13.	Rajasthan	11,209
14.	Tamil Nadu	5,000
15.	Uttar Pradesh	24,701
16.	West Bengal	564
Total		2,46,753

Potato Production

8257. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the main potato growing States in the country;

(b) the potato harvest projected for the year 1987;

(c) whether drought has caused any damage to potato harvest during 1987; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh etc. are main potato growing States in the country.

(b) to (d), Official estimate of production of potato during 1987-88 are yet to become available from the States.