

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Full cooperation is extended to fishing industries for acquiring indigenous deep sea fishing vessels. The following concessions/incentives are extended to the industry for acquisition of indigenous deep sea fishing vessels :

(i) Provision of 33% subsidy on the cost of indigenously constructed deep sea fishing vessels.

(ii) Provision of Soft loan at lesser rate of interest for acquisition of indigenous vessels as compared to imported vessels.

(iii) Permission to import components upto 30% of the total cost of the indigenously constructed deep sea fishing vessels.

(b) The association of Indian Fishery Industries has suggested that the Government should take appropriate action to expedite delivery of trawlers by the indigenous yards within the contracted delivery period in respect of orders already placed on the yards with SDFC loan. Alternatively, the association has suggested that the interest charges from entrepreneurs may be waived till actual delivery of the vessels.

(c) Government have decided that a team of officers from SCICI and Ministry of Surface Transport will study the problem of delayed delivery of indigenous vessels.

Production of Rails by Bhilai Steel Plant

1304. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhilai Steel Plant is unable to meet the Railway's requirement of rails to enable them to maintain their requirement of track renewal ;

(b) if so, what is the rated capacity of the Bhilai Steel Plant to produce rail per year and its actual production at present ; and

(c) the steps being taken to gear up the production of rails at Bhilai Steel Plant to meet the Railway's demand and thus save precious foreign exchange involved in their import ?

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

(b) The information on the production of rails at Bhilai Steel Plant is given below :

Annual Capacity	Year	'000 tonnes
5 lakh tonnes	1987-88 (Production)	379
	1988-89 (Plan)	450
	April-July 1988 (Plan)	147.0
	April-July (1988) (Actual)	146.8

(c) SAIL are working out a programme to revamp the Rail and Structural Mill of Bhilai Steel Plant consistent with the requirement pattern of the Indian Railways for these rails.

Study in Desert Development

1305. DR. B. L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether two Belgian agricultural scientists have developed a product called 'black milk' which can make deserts bloom;

(b) whether this technique has been studied by some Indian experts; if so, their finding on water evaporation ; and

(c) whether any experiments in this regard have been carried out ?