

value of tin and copper imported by MMTC during 1986-87 and 1987-88 is :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Tin	Copper
1986-87	Rs. 27.38	Rs. 78.31
1987-88	Rs. 18.82	Rs. 215.07

(b) The value of tin and copper produced in the country in the same period is :

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Tin	Copper (Wire Bar)
1986-87	—	Rs. 102.62
1987-88	Rs. .06	Rs. 129.13

[English]

Drought Relief to Rural Labour

1401. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special programmes have been launched by Government till June, 1988 to provide relief to rural labourers in the drought affected areas of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) to (c). No, Sir as drought conditions are not prevailing in Punjab during the current year.

Scrap Requirements of Mini Steel Plants

1402. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the steel scrap required by the mini steel units and whether this requirement could be met from the indigenous sources;

(b) whether Government are considering to permit mini steel plants to import steel scrap under open general licence; and

(c) in case Government do not propose to allow import of steel scrap under OGL, whether STC or MMTC is being asked to import adequate quantities of scrap for supply to mini steel plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir, the requirement of steel melting scrap for electric arc furnace based mini steel units has been assessed at 3.80 million tonnes during 1988-89. This entire requirement cannot be met from indigenous sources

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government plans to import adequate quantity of steel melting scrap through MSTC during 1988-89 to met the requirements of mini steel units.

Standard of Teaching in Navodaya Vidyalayas

1403. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have noticed some deficiencies in the studies in the Navodaya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the details of deficiencies in the teaching component especially in the teaching of English; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to improve the teaching in Navodaya Vidyalayas and bring them at par with prestigious Public Schools ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. Navodaya Vidyalayas being new and growing institutions, regular in-service courses for teachers are being organised by the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti for their professional growth/development.

Nickel and Cobalt Extraction

1404. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the manner in which the requirement of Nickel and Cobalt is being met in the country;

(b) whether Government have plans of exploiting indigenously the lateritic ores for producing nickel and cobalt;

(c) if so, the places selected for exploiting the lateritic ores; and

(d) the names of countries and terms offered to those countries for making nickel and cobalt from lateritic ores ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) The requirement of Nickel and Cobalt metals in the country is met through imports.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Damage to Paddy Crop in Kuttanad Region of Kerala

1405. SHRI VAKKOM PURSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention to Government has been drawn to the damage caused to paddy crop in Kuttanad region of Kerala due to floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to support the growers in region whose crops have been damaged ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND

COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. According to the reports received from Government of Kerala, there have been widespread damage. Standing crops have been badly damaged.

(c) State Government is taking action to provide assistance to farmers to restart paddy cultivation.

Prices of N.C.E.R.T. Books

1406. SHRI C. JANGA REEDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of various books for School Children published by NCERT have been increased recently;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether in many States the books are in short supply; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to make the NCERT books available to the students without any difficulty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The price of some the new and reprint text books pulished by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) this year has increased by Rs. 0.05 to Rs. 5.45 per title due to increased cost of inputs and increased in number of pages, illustrations, colours in printing etc.

(c) and (d). At the State level, the State Textbook agencies are responsible for publishing and distributing school text books in their respective States. NCERT caters to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) affiliated schools including Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas, Central Tibetan Schools, Sainik Schools and Indian Schools abroad. While the reprint editions of the NCERT textbooks have been generally made available in time, there has been some delay in publishing new text