

*[English]***Import of Steel**

\*569. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity and value of import of iron and steel in the country during the last three years;

(b) the countries from which imports have been made;

(c) the specifications of the steel being imported in the country;

(d) whether steps are being taken to produce steel of such specifications within the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The total quantity and value of saleable steel and pig iron imported during the last three years was as under :—

(Quantity in lakh tonnes/Value in Rs. Crores)

	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96 (Prov.)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Saleable Steel	11.53	1603	19.33	2536	18.64	3175
Pig Iron	0.21	9.58	0.01	1.07	0.08	6.19

(b) Imports are from various countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, CIS, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Turkey, U.K., USA and Venezuela.

(c) Steel imports mainly comprise of Hot Rolled Coils/Skelp/Strips, Cold Rolled Coils/Sheets, Plates, Tin Plates, Electrical sheets, different forms of semi-finished steel, etc.

(d) and (e) The producers of steel are constantly orienting their production to meet the market needs. Modernisation and expansion of steel plants of SAIL have been taken up towards this objective. Since 1991, Government has also adopted various policy measures to encourage creation of additional steel production capacities in the Private Sector. As a result, 7 projects with an annual capacity of 3.91 million tonnes of saleable steel have already been commissioned in the private sector upto 01.8.96.

With the setting up of steel plants in the private sector mainly to produce flat products, a major portion of the demand for hot rolled coils/cold rolled coils which are presently imported will be met by indigenous production.

*[Translation]***Telephone Services in Rural Areas of U.P.**

\*570. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are inadequate telephone services in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of villages provided with telephone services in the State during each of the last three years; and

(d) the number of new telephone connections proposed to be provided during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is mainly due to non-supply of equipment and its matched accessories by the supplier.

(c) The number of villages provided with telephone services in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, are as under :

S.No.	Year	Number of VPTs commissioned in UP
1.	1993-94	3524
2.	1994-95	5088
3.	1995-96	3692

(d) The number of new village public telephone connections proposed to be provided during the current financial year, is 15000.

*[English]***Losses in Postal Department**

\*571. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Department of Posts have been suffering losses worth crores of rupees every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring suitable changes in the tariff structure and in their functioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The deficit for Department of Post during the last three years is as under :—