

tonnes in April, 1977, compared with 143,590 tonnes in the previous month;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(d) steps contemplated to arrest this decline?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Major annual overhaul, repairs and other maintenance jobs are usually carried out during the early part of the financial year and for this purpose furnaces, mills etc. have to be shutdown. Production during the first month of any financial year is, therefore, generally lower compared to the preceding month, which is the closing month of the previous financial year, when all out efforts are made to achieve as high a production as possible. This also leads to stocks of somis, used for re-rolling at the finishing mills, going down towards the end of the financial year and these stocks have to be built up again after the turn of the financial year. The production of these two months is therefore not comparable. The production during the month of April can, however, be compared with that during the same month of the previous year. To illustrate the point, the comparative production of saleable steel in April for three consecutive years is given below:—

Production of Saleable Steel (tonnes)

	1975	1976	1977
April	105,382	112,058	12,592

(d) Does not arise, in view of answer to (c).

Postal Facilities to Villages of Tamil Nadu

6262. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of villages in Tamil Nadu are without post office or postal service;

(b) if so, number of villages being considered for providing this facility during the 1977-78;

(c) the reasons for not providing these services to these villages so far; and

(d) the time by which these villages will be provided with both the services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA):

(a) No, Sir. All the villages in Tamil Nadu are covered by daily delivery scheme. 7862 out of 18735 villages in the state are provided with Post Offices.

(b) It is proposed to open 121 additional Post Offices and cover about 3000 villages with postal counter facilities through mobile Post Offices during 1977-78.

(c) Post Offices are opened subject to the fulfilment of the prescribed norms and availability of resources.

(d) All the villages are covered by daily delivery service. There is no Plan at present to open a Post Office in every village of the State.

Opening of EMS at Iztanagar Junction

6263. SHRI SURENDRA BIKRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state whether he has received any application last month for opening R. M. S. at Iztanagar Junction on North Eastern Railway and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA):
No Sir. No such application appears to have been received so far.

R.S.M. between Shillong and Gauhati

6264. **SHRI HOPINGSTONE LYNGDOH:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the opening of the Railway Mail Service in between Shillong and Gauhati has caused delay of distribution of parcels at Shillong by one day; and

(b) if so, what Government propose to overcome such delay?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Barabazar Post Office, Shillong

6265. **SHRI HOPINGSTONE LYNGDOH:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the so called Barabazar Post Office at Shillong is not located in the Barabazar area; and

(b) what is the rent per month paid to the landlord for housing the so called Barabazar Post Office at Police Bazar, Shillong?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA):
(a) The Post Office is located between Police Bazar and Bara Bazar and is about $\frac{1}{2}$ Km. from the main Bara Bazar.

(b) Rs. 1,177/- p.m.

Power shortage hits Steel Plants in Tamil Nadu

6266. **SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the steel plants in Tamil Nadu have been closed down and facing total collapse due to power shortage in the State;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) steps being considered by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Due to power shortage, there was shortfall in production by mini steel plants in Tamil Nadu but no unit has faced total collapse and closure.

(c) The Tamil Nadu Government have taken/formulated certain short, medium and long term measures to improve upon the power situation.

These include:

(i) Addition of 935 (MW) capacity during the 5th Plan period;

(ii) For maximising the generation of Ennore Thermal Station, certain modifications have been carried out. More modifications are proposed in 1977-78. Improvements have also been carried out at the Basin Bridge Thermal Station. Import of 3 units of Gas Turbine Generators of 210 MW total capacity as an immediate measures of relief is proposed;

(iii) Proposal for installation of an additional unit at the Tuticorin Thermal Station, to raise its capacity from 420 MW (under construction) to 630 M.W.

(iv) As a long term measure, the Tamil Nadu Government are considering the question of setting up of additional power plants.