

(b) the nature of help rendered by the Indian Government to guard vital installations and the coastline of Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

झाबुआ जिले में राक फास्फेट की उपलब्धता

572. श्री भागीरथ भंडार : क्या इस्पात और लान मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मेसनगर जिला झाबुआ (मध्य प्रदेश) में उपलब्ध राक फास्फेट के सर्वेक्षण का कार्य पूरा कर लिया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी मुख्य बातें क्या है ?

इस्पात और लान मंत्री (श्री बीजू पटनायक):

(क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Steel Stocks

573. SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the position of monthly stocks of steel with public sector steel plants from January, 1977 to-date and their percentage to production;

(b) whether the stocks are in considerable excess of the norms;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for their meaningful utilisation in rapid economic development of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) The position of monthly stocks of steel with the integrated steel plants under the Steel Authority of India Limited in the public sector from January, 1977 to-date and their percentage to production is as follows:—

(^{000 tonnes})

	January	February	March	April	May
Production of sal able steel	424	413	458	388	427
Steel Stocks	1407	1388	1290	1225	1160
Steel stocks in terms of annual production (1976-77)	29.1%	28.7%	26.7%	25.0%	24.0%

(b) No specific norms have been prescribed for stocks of steel, but the present stocks are not considered to be alarmingly high.

(c) and (d). Do not arise. However, the main reasons for accumulation in stocks are higher production as compared to the previous years, slow down in building construction

activity and reduced off-take for railway rolling stocks and by irrigation projects. It is expected that as a result of measures taken recently the present trend of gradual depletion of stocks will continue. Efforts are also being made to step up exports still further.