

(b) if so, the details of the proposal with the complaints received up-to-date; and

(c) the action taken on the basis of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Steel Policy for development of Rural and Backward Areas**

2677. SHRI CHINDRALAL SINGHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Steel Policy for the development of Rural and Backward Areas;

(b) the action taken up-to-date for the fulfilment of the said policy;

(c) whether it is a fact that while the demand for the Rural and Backward Areas was denied, huge quantity of Steel was available in the open market; and

(d) if so, the detailed reason thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) Government has asked the main producers to take necessary steps to promote consumption of steel in the rural sector of the economy.

(b) A Study Team of SAIL has identified about 50 items made of iron and steel that can be used in the rural areas. Initially SAIL proposes to organise manufacture of some of these items through local entrepreneurs in four pilot workshops one each in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. Further plans on the subject will be decided on receipt of the results of the pilot workshops. In addition, SAIL

with the help of professional Institutes, is conducting surveys in the rural areas to identify avenues for promoting consumption of steel. SAIL is also engaged in the development of improved models of bullock-carts.

(c) The needs of the rural and backward areas have not been overlooked.

(d) Does not arise.

**Joint Plant Committee**

2678. SHRI SACHINDRALAL SINGHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Joint Plant Committee set-up in 1975 has been abandoned;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken up-to-date replacing the Joint Plant Committee and the result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir. However, the Joint Plant Committee was set up in 1964 and not in 1975.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Dead Telephones in Delhi**

2679. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA:

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the press reports in THE TIMES OF INDIA dated the 30th May, 1978 wherein it has been stated that several