

(a) whether Planning Commission has set up a working group on Iron and Steel and they have professed that country's demand for finished steel will be doubled in 10 years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The re-constituted Working Group on Iron and Steel set up in May, 1978 for formulation of policies and programmes for the period 1978-83, has in its Draft Plan, projected a demand of 15.4 million tonnes of saleable steel in 1987-88 which is more than double the level of consumption in 1977-78 which was of the order of 7.2 million tonnes.

**Recognition to third P & T Federation**

3493. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI;  
SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN;  
SHRI N. SREEKANTAN PATIL;  
SHRI VIJAYA KUMAR N. PATIL;  
SHRI BHAUSAHEB THORAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give recognition to a third federation in Posts & Telegraphs;

(b) if so, whether the P&T employees held a one day dharna at Sanchar Bhawan to protest against the recognitions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes Sir. Recognition has been granted to the Bhartiya P&T Employees Federation and its 10 affiliated Unions on 13-11-1978.

(b) Yes Sir. Some members belonging to National Federation of P&T Employees staged a Dharna.

(c) According to Government's information, the protest Dharna was held by a small group of employees belonging to National Federation of P&T Employees. The dharna demonstration included slogan shouting. The Government is fully within its right to recognise Unions.

**Disparity in wages**

3494. SHRI KACHARULAL HEMRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3187 on the 16th March, 1978 and state:

(a) the difference of work in labour when the Minister has accepted that the wages in Manganese Ore India Limited are less than wages in iron ore and limestones captive mines of steel and cement industry; and

(b) whether it is proposed to ensure equal wages for equal work and if so, when the wages of workers in Manganese Ore India Limited are likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) No study has been conducted in this regard.

(b) The matter would be examined by Government as a part of the general exercise to evolve an integrated policy on wages, incomes and prices.