

Construction of Spurs on River Kushiara by Bangladesh

1771. SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of construction of Spurs on the river Kushiara by Bangladesh was taken up in the last meeting of Indo-Bangladesh border talks; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) No, Sir. The Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission is now seized of this matter.

(b) Does not arise.

Installed Capacity of Steel Plants

1772. SHRI QUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the installed capacity of steel plants both in public and private sector, the production targets and the actual production achieved during the last three years giving reasons for shortfall, if any;

(b) the quantity of steel imported during the said period and the foreign exchange involved; and

(c) steps taken by Government to increase production to meet the entire demand indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA):

(a) The installed capacity of integrated steel plants in the public and private sectors in terms of saleable steel and production targets and actual production during the years 1975-76, 1976-77 and 1977-78 are indicated in the attached statement.

It will be noticed that in 1975-76 and 1976-77, the total production of

saleable steel exceeded the targets for these years. The production in 1977-78, however, fell short of the target by 6.5 per cent. This was mainly due to the following factors:—

(i) Shortage and frequent restrictions/interruptions in the supply of power, particularly at Bokaro and Durgapur Steel Plants and at TISCO;

(ii) Certain problems relating to supplies of coking coal to the steel plants, both in terms of quantity and quality; and

(iii) Strike at Dugda and Bhojudih Coal Washeries in October, 1977, and partial strike in Bokaro Steel Plant by a section of workers in February/March, 1978.

(b) Steel imported during the years 1975-76 to 1977-78 in terms of quantity and value is indicated below:—

	Quantity in tonnes	Value Rs/crores
1975-76 . . .	4,75,210	198.25
1976-77 . . .	3,18,329	131.25
1977-78 (April— December, 1977)	3,14,038	132.22

(c) The following important measures have been taken or are proposed to be taken to increase the production of steel in the country:—

(i) Close and constant liaison is being maintained with the Ministry of Energy, DVC authorities, Electricity Boards, coal supplying agencies and the Railways so as to secure maximum supplies of power and good coking coal.

(ii) Orders have been placed for the import of one million tonnes of low ash coking coal in order to supplement indigenous supplies.

(iii) Schemes for augmentation of captive power generation capacity at Durgapur and Bokaro Steel

Plants to the extent of 300 MW have been sanctioned. This will help meet the present difficulties on account of power shortage and frequent interruptions/fluctuations.

(iv) Early completion of current expansion programmes of Bhilai and Bokaro Steel Plants to a capacity of 4.0 million ingot tonnes each.

(v) Setting up of a plant at Rourkela to produce 37,500 tonnes of CRGO and 36,000 tonnes of CRNO sheets per annum to meet the requirements of electrical industry has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 109.80 crores.

(vi) Completion of the first phase of Salem Steel Plant to produce 32,000 tonnes of cold rolled stainless steel sheets/strips sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 126.81 crores.

(vii) Provision of additional melting facilities at Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur, to increase the ex-

isting capacity from 1,00,000 ingot tonnes of alloy steels to 1,60,000 tonnes has been sanctioned. A proposal to increase the capacity further to 2,60,000 tonnes is presently under consideration.

(viii) Certain proposals for the incorporation of new technological innovations/improvements at Bhilai and Bokaro Steel Plants so as to increase their productivity with only marginal investment are presently under consideration.

(ix) A proposal to increase the capacity of Bokaro Steel Plant further to 4.75 million ingot tonnes is presently under consideration.

(x) Increasing emphasis on Research and Development for ensuring higher productivity in the steel plants.

(xi) Proposals for setting up three shore-based steel plants are also under consideration.

Statement

('000 Tonnes)

Plants	1975-76		1976-77		1977-78	
	Annual capacity	Target	Actual Production	Target	Actual Production	Target
PUBLIC SECTOR						
Bhilai	1965	1770	1850	1890	2019	1925
Durgapur	1239	780	751	825	901	1000
Rourkela	1225	900	1041	1050	1174	1170
Bokaro	*	250	150	720	736	1048
IISCO	800	500	500	540	542	680
Sub-Total	5229	4200	4292	4965	5372	5823
PRIVATE SECTOR						
TISCO	1500	1500	1496	1500	1550	1550
TOTAL	6729*	5700	5778	6465	6922	7373

* The capacity of Bokaro Steel Plant at the first stage is 1.7 million ingot tonnes/1.355 million tonnes of saleable steel. Many of its units were under erection, completion during these years and the first stage was completed only about the middle of 1977. The plant is presently under expansion to a capacity of 4.0 million tonnes of ingot steel.