

The production of steel by the mini-steel plants from 1975-76 to 1979-80 is as under:—

Year	Production (in tonner)
1975-76	7,82,800
1976-77	9,95,000
1977-78	11,34,828
1978-79	16,57,472
1979-80	15,83,898

(b) Information regarding total capital investment in these plants is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) According to the production reports sent by these plants to the Iron and Steel Controller, the number of plants in production varies from month-to-month. During the year 1979-80, the number of plants reporting production varied from 90 in November, 1979 to 110 in January, 1980.

(d) Information is not available with the Government.

Closure of case against Associated Journals by CBI

802. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has closed the case against the Associated Journals which owns National Herald in the matter of granting irregular overdraft of Rs. 10 lakhs by the former Chairman of Punjab National Bank; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Central Bureau of Investigation have

reported that there was no case against M/s. Associated Journals Ltd., but they had however registered a case against the former Chairman and Managing Director of Punjab National Bank and others. As the allegations were not substantiated, CBI had closed the case on 31-3-80.

Taking over of Banks

803. SHRI CHIRAJI LAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to takeover more banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Demand for Indian Cycles in Foreign Countries

804. SHRI C. CHINASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a heavy demand for Indian cycles in foreign countries;

(b) the names of the countries to which they are exported at present;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned thereby during the last two years; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to encourage cycle production and export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a good demand for