

upon the representatives of the small scale industries sector the need for having a fully representative apex organisation of the sector which could communicate with the Government on policy matters for the development of this sector.

(e) The representatives of the Small Scale Industries Associations sought time to have consultation among themselves before they could reach a definite decision for having such a representative body.

#### **Shortage of Steel in Engineering Units North Eastern Region**

5989. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that engineering units in the northern region have been forced to cut their production by 70 per cent following non-availability of required steel material from the integrated steel plants;

(b) if so, the main reasons for short supply of steel to these units;

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) details of the engineering units that have suffered due to this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) to (d). There has been a shortfall in the production of saleable steel by the integrated steel plants due mainly to inadequate availability of power and coal. The engineering units in the Northern Region have been affected by this general shortage. Its impact on the production of these units have not been quantified.

There is no statutory control on the distribution of any category of steel. Iron and Steel materials are distributed as per the Guidelines for Distribution of Iron and Steel Materials announced by the Joint Plant Committee. These Guidelines do not provide for State-wise and Region-wise alloca-

tions. The scheme of priority in supply against the allocations made by the Joint Plan Committee is also laid down in the aforesaid Guidelines. In accordance with these Guidelines, the requirements of exporters of engineering goods for the execution of targets upto 31st March, 1981 have been met in full. Supplies to the Small Scale Industries Corporations in the Northern region against allotments during the period April—December, 1980 have also been satisfactory compared to the all India average.

Steps to augment the supply of required steel material by integrated steel plants have been taken. Buffer imports by SAIL and direct imports by actual users have also been permitted as per the Import Policy.

#### **Guidelines to Make Education more Purposeful**

5990. SHRI B. V. DESAI:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether guidelines are being prepared by an expert committee of the Planning Commission to make education more purposeful by forging beneficial links with the employment and economic development;

(b) if so, whether the expert committee has prepared the guidelines;

(c) if so, the details of the same and when the final decision for its introduction will be taken; and

(d) whether State Governments have approved these guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (d). The Planning Commission has set up a Working Group in October 1980 under the Chairmanship of Shri G. Parthasarathi for recommending steps to achieve beneficial linkages among education, employment, Health and Deve-