

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b).

	I. Steel (In Tons)		
	Demand	Allotment	Despatch*
1957-58 .	42,574	17,583	21,775
1958-59 .	47,527	24,017	14,540
1959-60	90,153	63,968	41,560
1960-61	89,328	76,693	75,224

*Despatch figures represent despatches against current and outstanding orders.

II. Pig Iron.

The system of allocation of Pig Iron has been discontinued with effect from Second Half of 1959. The Consumers can now place indents for their full requirements of Pig Iron direct without any authorisation. No consolidated demands from the State Governments are received. Indents are received from the Consumers direct and planned on Producers after due scrutiny. No figures of consolidated demand, allotments and despatches are available.

V.D. Cases in Defence Services

4513. Shri Manabendra Shah: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of venereal diseases in the Defence Services has been increasing for the last two years;

(b) if so, what is it due to; and

(c) what steps have been taken to remedy the situation?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) There is a decrease in the incidence of Venereal Diseases in the Army and the Air Force. A slight increase in the incidence of Venereal Diseases was registered in the Navy in 1959. There has however been a progressive decrease from 1950.

(b) The increase of Venereal Diseases in the Navy is due to Service conditions peculiar to Navy i.e., service afloat, long absence from family and concentration of men in port towns. There is a general increase in Venereal Diseases in the world and this may be one of the causes for the higher incidence amongst sailors who visit foreign ports in the course of their duty.

(c) In all the three services intensive propagan'da by lectures and special courses on prevention of Venereal Diseases and prophylactic measures is undertaken by the Medical Services and this has had very good results in the progressive diminution of the incidence of these diseases.

State Bank of India Branch in Hong Kong

4514. Shri N. R. Muniswamy: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering the advisability or feasibility of opening a branch of State Bank of India in Hong Kong as it is a free port;

(b) whether branch of Life Insurance Corporation experienced some difficulty in its business transaction; and

(c) if so, whether the Indian currency is highly valued in terms of Hong Kong currency or passed on far below its face value?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) The State Bank of India has not so far considered the question of opening a branch in Hong Kong.

(b) The branch of the Life Insurance Corporation in Hong Kong has not been able to attract sufficient business.

(c) All authorised external transactions take place at the official exchange rate which remains unchanged.