

(c) Iron ore and manganese ore from non-captive mines is purchased through Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation and Orissa Mining Corporation. The main reasons for reduction in purchase of iron ore lumps from non-captive mines by the steel plants is the increased production in the captive mines of the steel plants. The steel plants purchase only that amount of iron ore from non-captive sources by which the production in their captive mines falls short of their requirements. The increase in the supplies of iron ore from captive mines has been effected to optimise their capacity utilisation. The reduction in purchase of iron ore from non-captive sources was also due to the fact that in 1983-84 there was a lower production of hot metal compare to the previous year.

The reduction in procurement of manganese ore was due to lower production of hot metal and lower consumption rate in some steel plants.

(d) and (e) The requirements of iron ore and manganese ore for SAIL steel plants depends upon the hot metal production plan of SAIL. Further in case of iron ore, the procurement of iron ore from non captive sources depends upon the the production of the captive mines. However, in response to the request of the Government of Orissa, SAIL agreed to increase purchase of iron ore from Orissa Mining Corporation from the plan of 120,000 tonnes, to about 150,000 tonnes in 1983-84.

#### Declaration of Sundarban Region of West Bengal as Backward Zone

1450. SHRI NIRMAL SINHA: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria on which a zone is considered as a "backward zone".

(b) whether Sunderban region in the south of West Bengal possesses these criteria and can be treated as a "Backward Zone"; and

(c) the kinds of benefits do the people of a "Backward Zone" enjoy ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) In pursuance of discussions at the meeting of the National Development Council committee held in September 1969, the Planning Commission in December 1969 has suggested the following guidelines to be adopted by the State Governments for indentification of economically and industrially backward districts:

- (i) per capita foodgrains/commercial crops production depending on whether the district is predominantly a producer of foodgrain/cash crops.
- (ii) Ratio of agricultural workers in the total population.
- (iii) Per capita industrial output (gross).
- (iv) Number of factory employees per lakh of population or, alternatively, number of persons engaged in secondary and tertiary activities per lakh of population.
- (v) Per capita consumption of electricity.
- (vi) Lenth of surfaced roads in relation to population or railway mileage in relation to population.

It was also indicated that only districts with indices well below the State average may be selected for suitable incentives from financial institutions.

(b) The West Bengal Government has identified Sunderban region as a backward area within the State.

(c) In the identified industrially backward districts, incentives in the form of investment subsidies or concessional finances or both are provided. For other backward areas, special additive funds are provided in the plan to bring about accelerated development.

#### Computers Learning Shops located in Delhi

1451. SHRI MANOHAR LAL SAINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: