

Insurance Licences for setting up of Mini-steel Plants

672. SHRI KRISHAN CHANDRA PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the parties, who applied for the insurance licences for setting up the mini-steel plants in various States;

(b) the names of parties who were issued the licences with the location thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the all products of these mini-plants will be made available to the consumers at fair-price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) It is presumed the Hon'ble Member is referring to the applications received by Government for grant of industrial licences to set up electric furnace cum continuous casting plants for manufacture of steel ingots/billets. A list of such applications received after February 1970 when the revised Industrial Licensing Policy came into force, is enclosed. Statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3242/72]

(b) The names of the parties out of the above who have been granted Letters of intent/Industrial Licences together with location are indicated in the statement enclosed. Statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3292/72].

(c) The production of ingots/billets by such units and their disposal are at present not controlled by Government.

Production of Ingots and Saleable Steel in Public Sector Steel Plants

673. SHRI K. BALADHANDA-UTHAM :
SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the aggregate production of ingots and saleable steel at the country's three mild steel plants showed a decline in the months of April to June this year;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decline in production; and

(c) the steps taken to step up production of ingots and saleable steel at these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): The aggregate production at the Bhilai, Durgapur, Rourkela Steel Plants under Hindustan Steel Limited during the months of April to June, 1972, was higher in terms of saleable steel but lower in terms of ingot steel as compared to the production in the corresponding period last year as the following figures will show:—

	(In '000 tonne)	
	April-June 1971	April-June 1972
Ingot Steel	87.9	82.1
Saleable Steel	626.9	619.9

(b) The production during these months was affected in all the plants on account of a severe summer, high absenteeism and shortage of coke oven gas. Power shortage due to restrictions in supply affected production in Rourkela and Durgapur. Adverse industrial relations constituted a principal constraint in the Durgapur Steel Plant and to some extent, affected the Rourkela Steel Plant also.

(c) Within the limitations imposed by the industrial relations situation, particularly at Durgapur Steel Plant, the Management of Hindustan Steel Limited are making all possible efforts to increase production as rapidly as possible. These includes: specialised repairs of Coke Ovens, use of alternative fuels to supplement gas availability, oil firing in certain furnaces to augment fuel resources, improved maintenance aimed at better equipment availability, speeding up of capital programmes required to correct existing imbalances in production facilities and planned procurement of spares, refractories and other essential materials. Recently, a three-tier joint consultative machinery has been set up at Durgapur for speedy settlement of industrial disputes and grievances and to enlist the cooperation of the workers in maximising production. A new rewards scheme has been introduced in the Rourkela Steel Plant to