

Setting up of Mini Steel Plants

723. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan is being worked out by Government to have a network of mini steel plants in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) whether any survey has been made to determine the location of mini steel plants in different States and if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). The question presumably refers to units for the manufacture of steel ingots/billets from steel scrap through electric furnaces with conventional/continuous casting. Government have no programme to set up such units themselves, but they examine on merits applications for industrial licences received from State Industrial Development Corporations and private parties after taking into account the availability of Scrap and similar factors.

(c) No, Sir. It is for the entrepreneur to decide about the location of the plant, but Government keep the desirability of dispersing the industry in mind with all other relevant factors when considering applications for industrial licences.

Indiscipline among Industrial Labour

724. SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether indiscipline among industrial labour has increased during the recent past affecting production in the country;

(b) whether the All India Manufacturers Organisation has expressed its concern at the growing indiscipline among labour and suggested some measures for solving the labour problems; and

(c) if so, steps being taken to solve the labour problems and ensure smooth working of the industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) The number of disputes due to indiscipline and violence, number of workers involved and number of mandays lost due to these disputes, during 1970 and 1971, were as follows:—

Years	No. of disputes	No. of workers involved	No. of mandays lost
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1970	109 (3 8)	70,960	3,145,283
1971 (Prov.)	102 (3 9)	53,768	2,053,541

Figures in brackets in col. 2 indicate the percentage of disputes due to indiscipline and violence in relation to the total number of disputes due to various causes taken as a whole.

(b) and (c). Ministry of Labour are not aware of this. The standing orders of the various establishments usually contain provisions for dealing with various types of misconduct on the part of the workmen in the concerned establishments. However, Government have been holding discussions with the interests concerned, including Workers' and Employers' Organisations, to evolve agreed measures to secure improvements in the industrial relations system.

Export of Sikkimese goods by India

725 SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the total volume of export of Sikkimese goods handled by India annually at present?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH). Exports from Sikkim at present come under the purview of the laws relating to customs and foreign exchange in force in India. No separate statistics are maintained of these goods as they are exported through Indian ports and fall within the framework of our customs regulations. The exports from Sikkim, however, are mostly of a small quantity of handicrafts and cardamoms.