

(SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b).

<i>Production per Head per annum ingot Tonnes</i>	
Japan (1971)	280
USA (1971)	244
Bhilai (1971-72)	76
Durgapur (1971-72)	36
Rourkela (1971-72)	41
TISCO (1971-72)	60

Notes: (1) Information for USSR is not available.

(2) For Japan and USA, ingot production has been divided by the number employed in the Iron and Steel Industry as a whole, including foundry and forge units.

(3) Ingot production plus 25 percent of saleable pig iron has been divided by the number employed in the works for Bhilai, Durgapur and Rourkela.

(4) For TISCO calculation is based on the production during 1971-72 and the employment figures for 1970-71.

A comparison between Steel Plants in India and abroad in terms of labour productivity is, however, not easy to make because of various differences in respect of equipment and technology, product-mix, capacity utilisation of the production units, state of maintenance of the equipment, extent of work done through out-side agencies, hours of work, leave entitlement absenteeism etc.

Increasing Production at Existing Steel Plants before setting up any new Steel Plants

5340 SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state whether Government do not propose to set-up any more steel mills till such time the production in the existing steel mills rises upto 75 per cent of the installed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): No, Sir. While it is of paramount importance that the production in the existing steel plants should be increased to optimum levels and every effort is being made to achieve this objective, it is also necessary to increase the installed capacity to meet the rapid growth in the demands for steel.

Appointment of Consultants for three New Steel Plants

5341. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA:

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

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the appointment of consultants for the three new steel plants; and

(b) if so, the decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). For the preparation of the techno-economic feasibility reports on the three new steel plants, Consultants were appointed and they have completed their assignment. The question of award of the further stages of consultancy work is under consideration.

Anti-India Propaganda by Pakistan to U.N.

5342. SHRI H. M. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has stepped up propaganda offensive against India in the United Nations;

(b) the steps taken by India to counteract the propaganda; and

(c) the reaction of the various members of the United Nations to such propaganda by Pakistan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a)