

by Hindustan Steel Limited during the years 1971-72—1973-74 is indicated below:—

1971-72	2
1972-73	7
1973-74	12

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to Part (b) of the question.

Appointment of Dealers and Stockists for Distribution of Urea by Neyveli Lignite Corporation

3345. SHRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any norms or qualifications were prescribed for appointing dealers and stockists for the distribution of Urea by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation at Neyveli, Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) and (b). The Neyveli Lignite Corporation are currently implementing a scheme for appointment of stockists/authorised dealers for the distribution of Neyveli Urea. The scheme envisages the direct marketing of about 50 per cent of the production to authorised retailers (not to wholesalers or middlemen) and the balance 50 per cent of the production through established co-operative federations, State's Agro Industries Co-operations and allied public institutions.

It is proposed to establish about 4 to 6 stock points in each district located at the agriculturally predominant towns in the Economic Zone comprising the five districts in and around Neyveli and about 25 to 30 retail dealers are proposed to be appointed in each area to be served by each stock point depending upon the potentiality.

For this purpose the Neyveli Lignite Corporation have called for applications through the press for appointment of

stockists/authorised dealers, and they have constituted a Selection Committee for screening the applications and making recommendations.

Quantity of Steel received and sold by Hindustan Steels Limited at Madras

3346. SHRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of steel received and sold by the Office of the Hindustan Steels Limited at Madras during the quarters January—March, 1973 and April—June, 1973; and

(b) the list of names of the institutions and retail dealers who have been allotted steel during those two periods?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a).

(In tonnes)

	Quarter Ending March '73	Quarter Ending June '73.
Total Receipts	16207.068	19656.973
Total Sales	17083.016	18740.805

(b) The list of parties to whom the materials were allotted during the periods January—March, '73 and April—June '73 is not readily available. However, the percentage break up of sales to different categories of consumers during above two periods was as follows—

Percentage of Total Sales (Excluding Imports)

	Jan to March '73	April to June '73
Government Demands	29.2	21.3
D.I./S.S.I. Units	12.4	7.0
DGID Units	14.8	17.3
Rollers/Forging Units	14.3	21.1
House Builders	2.0	2.3
Dealers	27.3	31.0
	100.0	100.0

Grievances of Employees in Dandakaranya Project

3347. SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the long standing grievances of the workers and employees of Dandakaranya Project;

(b) if so, the nature thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHU-NATHA REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The grievances of the employees largely concern improvement of service conditions such as restoration of cut in Project Allowance; grant of Bad Climate Allowance to the employees working in Koraput Agency; increase in daily wages under Minimum Wages Act and withdrawal of service termination notices served on the surplus work-charged staff etc.

(c) The grievances of the employees of Dandakaranyt have always received sympathetic consideration of the Government. These grievances have been the subject of discussions amongst the Project Authorities and the officers of the Department of Rehabilitation on one hand, and representatives of the Employees Association on other hand, from time to time. The Minister also discussed the grievances of the employees as brought out by the representatives of the staff associations in a meeting held in Delhi on 23rd May, 1973. Some of the demands have already been met. Action is in hand to redress the other grievances as early as possible.

Commissioning of U. S. Base in Indian Ocean near Ceylon

3348. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has commissioned any base in the Indian Ocean near Ceylon recently; and

(b) if so, the name of the place and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Defence Department of the United States Government announced on 18th June, 1973 that the "Communications Station" at Diego Garcia, which is some 1,000 miles from Sri Lanka, became operative from 23rd March, 1973. Government are not aware of the commissioning of any United States Base nearer Sri Lanka.

(b) Since 1966, the Government of India has repeatedly deplored both to the U. S. and to the U. K. Governments their decision to set up a base in Diego Garcia as it could lead to Great Power military rivalry in the Indian Ocean. India's view that the Indian Ocean should be an area of peace, free from Great Power rivalries, tensions and presence is well-known.

Preparation of Cost of Living Indices for Calcutta

3349. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of his Ministry that there has been a manipulation in preparing the statistics regarding the cost of living indices for Calcutta by the Labour Bureau, Simla resulting in the cut of D. A. and emoluments of the employees and workers of the area;

(b) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry to rectify the same and to compensate the loss already suffered by the employees and workers concerned; and

(c) whether any representation was made before his Ministry by the Central Trade Union Organisation; if so, who made it and what are the main features of the representation?