

pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate amount of yarn is not made available at present to the handloom weavers in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shaif Qureshi):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Production of Steel

308. Shri Khagapathi Pradhani:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Heerji Bhal:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of steel in all the Steel Plants increased in 1966;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is in accordance with the production targets?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) to (c). A statement containing the production figures for 1965 and 1966 for all the steel plants is given below:—

Steel Plants	1965	1966
	(ingot tonnes)	
Tata	1,969,110	2,010,943
IISCO	948,773	924,466
Rourkela	1,077,582	976,391
Bhilai	1,267,200	1,765,180
Durgapur	1,017,083	780,364
Mysore Iron	64,367	72,268

Production in many Plant Units were not in accordance with targets due to certain operational features.

Export of Tea

309. Shri Khagapathi Pradhani:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Heerji Bhal:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated export potential of tea this year; and

(b) the steps taken to increase the export of tea?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shaif Qureshi):

(a) Assuming that normal conditions will prevail during 1967, it is estimated that exports of tea might reach a level of about 210 million kgs. this year

(b) Indian tea has been facing keen competition in foreign markets with teas from other producing countries as well as competition from other beverages. The following are among the various steps taken to increase the export of tea:—

- 1 For achieving higher levels of production, loans on low rates of interest are advanced to the planters to enable them to undertake replantations and extensions of their gardens and for irrigation purposes
- 2 Latest machinery for tea factories is made available by the Tea Board on Hire-Purchase basis
- 3 A developmental rebate of 50 per cent in income-tax for expenditure incurred on extensions and 40 per cent of expenditure incurred on replantations is allowed.
- 4 The export duty on tea was adjusted downward in November last for increasing its competitive position, particularly of the medium and common varieties, in the world markets.