

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.

5. Promotional measures abroad jointly with other tea producers and the local tea trade have been undertaken for the stimulation of consumption of tea. Measures are also taken in addition in principal consuming areas, for improving the demand of pure Indian teas.

6 Assistance for the procurement of fertilisers, pesticides and other requirements of the industry is also rendered.

#### Export of Jute Goods

310. Shri Khagapathi Pradhani  
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:  
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:  
Shri Heerji Bhai:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of jute goods to various countries has declined;

(b) if so the existing level of export of jute goods to various countries; and

(c) the steps taken to boost up the export of jute goods?

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

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) Exports of jute goods in 1966 totalled 743,500 tonnes.

(c) A statement is attached. [Placed in Library See No. LT-182/67].

#### Production of Razor Blades

311. Shri Heerji Bhai;  
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:  
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:  
Shri Khagapathi Pradhani:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the present position in regard to the production of razor blades in the country and whether it is com-

mensurate with the requirement of the country; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken in this regard?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) The production of Razor Blades in 1966 was 906 million Nos. in the large scale sector. There are also a few units in the Small Scale Sector with an approved capacity of 58 million Nos. This compares favourably with the estimated demand. A capacity of 2096 million Nos has also been approved against the Fourth Five Year Plan target of 2000 million Nos. It is felt that this capacity will be sufficient to meet the requirements of the country.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Foreign Exchange earned by Indian Films

312 Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:  
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:  
Shri Khagapathi Pradhani:  
Shri Heerji Bhai:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian films have earned foreign exchange (in currency) by participating in film festivals in foreign countries during 1966; and

(b) if so the details thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). It is not possible to indicate how much foreign exchange was earned by participation in film festivals organised in foreign countries, during 1966. Participation in film festivals abroad is one of the measures adopted for publicising our films abroad.

#### Export of dried prawn to Burma

314. Shri Khagapathi Pradhani:  
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:  
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:  
Shri Heerji Bhai:

Will the Minister of Commerce be