

(e) whether the average rate of despatches to the re-rollers in the current year has been only around 66,000 tonnes per month ; and

(f) the reasons for this fall and the steps proposed by Government to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Raj Committee had stated that the quantity of billets to be supplied to re-rollers should not be less than 0.9 million tonnes per annum for the next few years.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (f). Main steel plants producing billets have completed their expansion. Their planned production of semis for sale is 1.1 million tonnes or about 92,000 tonnes per month. Semis include not only billets, but also blooms and tin bars. The average despatches of billets to the re-rollers in the current financial year is at the rate of 69,000 tonnes per month, excluding defective billets. There has been a shortfall in the production of billets due to one of the blast furnaces of TISCO having been down for relining (in April-July, 1968 period), labour troubles at Durgapur during the months of September and October, 1968 and technical difficulties in their Blooming and Billet Mill. Every effort is being made to press the steel plants to maximise the output of billets for sale.

Availability of Billets

1816. SHRI J. MOHAMMED
IMAM :
SHRI HUKAM CHAND
KACHWAI :
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a substantially larger availability of billets in 1967-68 than in 1966-67 ;

(b) whether the re-rolling mills were notified sufficiently in advance about such a possibility ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of Steel Re-rolling Mills Association had requested for such advance information from the General Manager, Bhilai Steel Plant and his Ministry and that in spite of repeated reminders it was not given ; and

(d) if the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, is it correct to allege contracts for exporting billets had to be made in 1967-68 because the re-rollers failed to lift the stocks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) Availability of billets in 1967-68 was more by about 80,000 tonnes than in 1966-67.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Investment in Central Sector Industries

1817. SHRI J. H. PATEL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment in Central Sector industries situated in different States for the last 20 years ; and

(b) the break-up of the same with regard to Mysore State ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). The required information has been given in the statement placed on the Table of the House by the Prime Minister on the 13th November, 1968 in reply to Starred Question No. 61.