

1988-89 : 22.5 lakh tonnes.

1989-90 : 18.6 lakh tonnes.

It is difficult to estimate the total demand as it depends on the demand and availability of bars, rods and light structurals which are also produced by the main producers.

(c) Capacity utilization of the secondary sector during the last three years has been in the range of 45 to 50 percent

(d) Apart from import by MSTC, Government have recently allowed import of scrap under the "Import Replenishment Scheme." The indigenous production of Sponge Iron is also expected to go up considerably in the current year to meet the requirement of the mini steel industry. This will lead to better capacity utilization in the future.

Officers of SAIL

5719 SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers holding extended term of office in Steel Authority of India Limited

(b) whether their appointment is being reviewed, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) (a) No officer in SAIL excepting its Chairman is holding extended term of office beyond the date of superannuation

(b) and (c) Chairman SAIL's extended term is due to expire on 14th May 1990

Casual/Muster Roll Employees Working in AIR

5720. SHRI A. PRATAP SAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casual/muster roll employees working in various stations of All India Radio; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to regularise their services?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Out of 100 All India Radio Stations, information from 70 Stations indicates that presently only 26 Casual employees are employed at 5 Stations namely, Ajmer, Allahabad, Dibrugarh, Gulbarga and Nagpur for short term period on rotation basis. Thus the number of casual employees employed by All India Radio Stations is very small

(b) Services of Casual Labourers are regularised in accordance with the Government's instructions on the subject.

Rate of Interest for Construction of Houses

5721 SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of financial institutions providing loans to private individuals, Government employees etc. for construction of houses

(b) the rate of interest charged by each financial institution,

(c) whether the interest rate is proposed to be reviewed, and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the following institutions are providing housing finance all over the country:

- (i) All Scheduled Commercial Banks.

(ii) Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO).

(iii) Housing Development Financial Corporation (HDFC).

(iv) Housing Finance Institutions promoted by commercial banks.

(b) Commercial Banks charge interest on housing loans as per the guidelines prescribed by the RBI given below:-

<i>Amount of Loan</i>	<i>Rate of Interest (Percent per annum)</i>
Upto Rs. 20,000/-	12.5
Above Rs. 20,000/- & upto Rs. 50,000/-	13.5
Above Rs. 50,000/- & upto Rs. 1.lakh	14.0
Above Rs. 1 lakh & upto Rs 3 lakhs	14.5 to16.0

Rate of interest for housing loan for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes upto and inclusive of Rs. 5,000/- is 4% per annum.

Banks are also allowed to charge higher rate of interest over the minimum interest rate of 16% per annum on housing loans exceeding Rs. 3 lakhs per individual.

(c) and (d). There is, at present, no proposal to make any change in the rates of interest on housing loans extended by banks.

Removal of Titanium Dioxide from OGL

5722. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Government of Kerala for removing Titanium dioxide from the Open General Licence list of import;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision on this matter; and

(c) the reasons for not removing it from OGL?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The suggestion was considered in consultation with the Technical Authorities. However, as Titanium Dioxide is required by a number of small scale units and issue of individual licences for such units would be very cumbersome, it was decided to continue its import under OGL.

Tea Exports to Hard Currency Areas

5723. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the break up of amount of tea