

**Management of Steel Mills**

\*843. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:  
SHRI TARUN GOGOI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study published by the National Productivity Council has stated that the relative poor performances of the public sector steel mills in the country have been attributed partly to the faulty planning and management of the mills;

(b) the other points mentioned in the report of the National Productivity Council; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA):

(a) The study attributes the relative poor performance of the public sector steel plants to a variety of reasons. Part of these, according to the report, have their origin in avoidable factors like faulty planning and management

(b) As far as the relative poor performance of the public sector steel mills is concerned, the study mentions factors like higher gross block per tonne of end products, non-availability of basic inputs of required quantity and quality and, to some extent, lack of adequate transport facilities and so on. Further, a continuous expansion of capacity in these mills, dictated more by the needs of the economy than by technical feasibilities, without ensuring utilisation of capacity has according to the study, resulted in a serious drain on capital productivity

(c) The report has been received only recently. It will have to be examined how far the conclusions are acceptable and the suggestions contained therein can be implemented with advantage.

**Leave and other Benefits to Mine Workers**

\*844. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:  
SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government for the benefit of the mine workers and employees to avail of the leave and other benefits given to the other State and Central Government servants; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) and (b). No such proposal is under consideration of Government. However, relevant labour laws provide for leave, provident fund, bonus, maternity and medical benefits, educational and housing facilities, gratuity, family pension and life assurance benefits to persons employed in a mine.

**Reports of Chinese Criticism of U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. for Naval Operations in Indian Ocean**

\*845. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press report on 29th March, 1974 circulated by Hsinhua, the official Chinese news agency, criticising U.S.A. and Russia for intensification of naval operations in the Indian Ocean;

(b) whether the report accused Russia and U.S.A. for "scrambling for hegemony in the Indian Ocean" disguising themselves "as defenders of the security of the region"; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?