

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) :** (a) Stockyards of the main producers distribute steel material for construction of houses at regulated prices. 30% of bars, rods etc. received in the Stockyards are earmarked for such purposes. From May 1, this year, a proportion of production of billet re-rollers will also come to these stockyards. 30% of this material also will be available for house-building, thus adding to availability.

(b) and (c). No specific case of favouritism has been brought to the notice of this Ministry. However, Regional Offices of the Iron and Steel Controller have now been set up and one of their functions will be to ensure that Stockyards follow the prescribed procedures and guidelines.

#### Shortage of Fertilisers

\*860. **SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of fertilisers in the country ; and

(b) the average consumption of fertiliser per acre in the country at present ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) :** (a) There is no shortage of nitrogen, Phosphates and Potash in as much as the estimated availability, consisting of indigenous production and planned imports, is enough to cover the requirements estimated by the States for 1971-72:—

	(in lakh tonnes)		
	N	P	K
Requirement :	19.34	7.32	3.90
Availability :	23.25	8.13	4.22

However, in Kharif, 1971, there has been shortage of certain products preferred in some pockets i. e. Ammonium Sulphate, Calcium Ammonium Nitrate and Diammonium Phosphate. The available stocks of Urea, Superphosphate and other fertilisers are very suitable from the agronomic and economic points of view, for the Kharif crops. It is expected that adequate quantities of Ammonium Sulphate, Calcium Ammonium Nitrate and Diammonium Phosphate would be available for Rabi 1971-72 through imports.

(b) The average consumption of fertilisers per hectare in the country in 1970-71 was 12.9 kg. of nutrients per hectare.

#### Factories Exempted from Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946

\*861. **DR. MELKOTE :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether some factories have been exempted from the operation of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946; and

(b) if so, the number of the factories so exempted and the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R.K. KHADILKAR) :** (a) and (b). The Central Government have not exempted the factories as such from the operation of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946. However, Central Government have exempted some industrial establishments which include factories also from the scope of the Act. The list of such establishments is given in the statement attached. These establishments have been exempted on the ground that the Fundamental and Supplementary Rules are applicable to the workmen in those establishments or they have