

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR
(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA):** (a)
and (b). The matter falls predomi-
nantly in the State sphere. The State
Governments have been advised from
time to time to take effective steps
for the enforcement of the notified
minimum wages. Strengthening the
administrative set up, utilising the
services of staff of Departments like
Revenue, Agricultural, Rural Develop-
ment, in addition to those of Labour
Departments and increasing the num-
ber of claims authorities have been
some of the measures that have been
taken.

**Outstanding Telephone Bills of former
Ministers and Members of Parlia-
ment**

*74. **SHRI SHEO SAMPAT:** Will
the Minister of COMMUNICATION be
pleased to state:

(a) the amount of telephone bills
outstanding against each former Cen-
tral Minister and former Member of
Parliament and the period for which
the amount relates;

(b) the steps taken to realise the
amount in full; and

(c) whether it is proposed to start
some legal proceedings against the de-
faulters for realisation of the amount
and if so, particulars thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNI-
CATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNAN-
DES):** (a) to (c). The information
sought covers more than 60 former
Ministers and 500 former Members of
Parliament. The outstanding dues on
private account of these former
Ministers and former Members of
Parliament involves scanning of a
large number of bills in respect of
telephones spread all over India.
This is being arranged and the in-
formation about the outstanding
amounts and the steps being taken
for realising the amounts as per the
rules of the Department is being col-

lected from the Units and will be
laid on the Table of the House as
soon as it becomes available.

**Reduction in Prices of Steel Products
in Stock**

*75. **SHRI M. KALYANASUNDA-
RAM:** Will the Minister of STEEL
AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have de-
cided to reduce the prices of steel pro-
ducts in stock with the public sector
steel plants;

(b) if so, the normal stock that each
of these plants can have;

(c) the present stock position in each
of these plants; and

(d) the extent to which prices are
proposed to be lowered?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND
MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):**

(a) There is no proposal to reduce
the price of steel in stock with the
public sector steel plants. However,
temporary rebates were given in
certain slow moving categories and/
or damaged/rusted products.

(b) Considering the present pro-
duction and sales programme for
the year, a stock of about 1 million
tonne with SAIL Group in the whole
system—at the plants, in transit and
at the stockyards (home & Export)
is considered normal as detailed
below:—

	Tonnes
At Plants . . .	225,000
At Home Stockyards . . .	415,000
At Export Yards . . .	100,000
In transit . . .	250,000
	990,000

or say one million tonnes.