

(c) The details of the said items imported during 1997-98 as compared to 1996-97

indicating the dates, quantities thereof (country-wise) are given in the following Annexures.

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| (i) Quantity of import country-wise & item-wise during 1996-97<br>[See Appendix 184, Annexure No. 107]           | Annexure - I   |
| (ii) Value of import country-wise & item-wise during 1996-97<br>[See Appendix 184, Annexure No. 108]             | Annexure - II  |
| (iii) Quantity of import country-wise & item-wise during April-Dec. 1997<br>[See Appendix 184, Annexure No. 109] | Annexure - III |
| (iv) Value of import country-wise & item-wise during April-Dec. 1997<br>[See Appendix 184 Annexure No. 110]      | Annexure - IV  |

#### **United Nations Annual Steel Review**

4404. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the United Nations Annual Steel Review which said — "Assam crisis curbs capacity benefits world steel" as reported in the 'Economic Times', New Delhi Edition, dated 4th July, 1998;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian Steel Industry has been facing weakening demand with declining prices since 1996 and many ambitious projects postponed indefinitely in 1997; and

(c) if so, details of such delayed/postponed Indian projects and steps taken so far to face the crisis and remove the hurdles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Government is aware of a news item reported in New Delhi edition of the Economic Times dated 4.7.98 on "Asian crisis curbs capacity; benefits world steel".

(b) and (c) The Indian Steel Industry has also been affected by the general slowdown of the economy and has been facing reduced growth in demand, stagnant prices and lower profitability for the last two years. However, Government is not aware of postponement of many ambitious projects on these accounts alone. Investment decisions in the steel industry are based on long term considerations.

Government have initiated several measures to stimulate demand for steel which include:

- (i) Enhanced allocation for infrastructure development housing,

power, high-ways proposed in the Budget for 1998-99.

(ii) Launch of a National Campaign to increase the consumption of steel particularly in Rural and Agro Based Industrial sectors.

(iii) Constitution of a Steel Exporters Forum to boost exports of steel.

#### **Performance of NALCO**

4405. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) in the production of Alumina and Aluminium in 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the number of projects are being currently implemented by NALCO;

(c) the estimated production expected after the completion of the projects; and

(d) the year by which these projects are expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Production of Alumina and Aluminium by NALCO in 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given below:—

Item	Unit/Tonnes		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Alumina	807130	840062	883300
Aluminium	192288	203823	200162

(b) to (d) The details of projects under implementation by NALCO estimated production after their completion and the time by which they are expected to be completed is given in the Statement. (See below).