

commercial imports of milk products despite resounding success of operation flood I, II etc.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government Dairy Plants have been asked by NDDB/IDC/Government of India to make their own arrangements for imports of milk products on commercial basis; and

(c) whether Government propose to appoint a high powered evaluation team, including many top experts in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) to (c) No, Sir.

Manufacture of Sponge Iron

3207. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sponge iron is manufactured by the Sponge Iron India Limited, Kothagudem (Andhra Pradesh);

(b) if so, what is its annual production capacity and what has been the annual production of this plant during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the sponge iron manufactured by this plant does not have the selling capacity at the comparative rates in the world market; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Annual production capacity and actual production of the plant during the last three years is given below:—

(in tons)

Year	Capacity	Actual production
1984-85	30,000	25,496
1985-86	60,000	42,033
1986-87	60,000	51,545

(c) and (d) As there is enough demand of sponge iron in the country itself, the entire production of the Unit is being sold in the domestic market and as such the question of selling the product in the world market does not arise.

पंजाब में बेरोजगार हो गये कर्मकार

3208. श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पंजाब के लघु इस्पात संयंत्रों की विद्युत की आपूर्ति रोक दी जाने के परिणामस्वरूप जो 50 हजार कर्मकार बेकार हो गए हैं, उनके भविष्य के बारे में स्टील फ़ैक्ट्स एसोसिएशन आफ इंडिया ने सरकार से कोई बातचीत की है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में बयान क्या है और क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई प्रभावी कदम उठाते हैं और यदि हां, तो उनका बयान क्या है?