

relaxed credit facility are Ghana, Nigeria Sudan, Zambia, Zaire, Tanzania, Uganda and Siera Leone.

Making of chemical weapons by Pakistan

226. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan has started making chemical weapons; and

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Government do not have any confirmed information on the subject.

(b) Government continuously update plans for defence preparedness in the light of developments in our security environment.

Hawkeye early warning and control planes

227. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has furnished its Air Force with U.S. manufactured E-2C Hawkeye Early Warn-and-Control Planes;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to meet the threat posed to our security thereby and also in view of the fact that Pakistan has already equipped itself with F-16s which can hit any part of India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Government has seen reports appearing in a section of the press in this regard.

(b) Government carefully laonitors all developments having a bearing on the security of the country and takes effective steps to ensure full defence preparedness at all times.

Rate of production at Steel Plant under SAIL

228. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state;

(a) what was the production capacity rate at which different steel plants of Steed Authority of India Limited have been working during the last three years; and

(b) what are the reasons for the plants not working at their full capacity rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) (a) The information is given below:—

Product/Plant	(% Capacity Utilisation)			
	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85 (Till Oct.)
<i>Saleable Steel :</i>				
BSP	93	94	80	93
DSP	63	66	49	52
RSP	89	81	70	77
BSL	75	78	65	76
SAIL	81	81	68	76
II SGO	61	63	55	48
ASP	87	78	41	93
SSP	10	21	22	53

(b) The main factors affecting production were restrictions in the supply of power and poor quality and inadequate availability of indigenous coking coal as well as some technological deficiencies in the plant*.

Production of Steel

229. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that India ranks sixteenth among the steel producing countries of the world;

(b) what was the total output of raw steel in India during the years 1981 to 1984 separately and what is the target for 1985; and

(c) what is the amount allotted unit-wise for modernisation of the steel plants during the year 1985?

THE MINISTER OF STATE, IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the publication "World Steel in figures 1984", published by International Iron & Steel Institute, India ranks 16th among the major steel producing countries during the years 1982 and 1983.

(b) The information is given below:—• (in

million

Year	Output of raw steel
1981-82	10.8
1982	11.0
1983	10.2
1984 (Provisional)	10.5

The output of raw steel in India during the year 1985 is likely to be 12.5 million tonnes.

(c) For the year 1984-85, in the budget estimates, the following provisions were

made for the modernisation of steel plants:—

Plant	(Rs. in Crores)
	1984-85 (Budget Estimates)
Durgapur Steel Plant	1.00
Rourkela Steel Plant	1.00
ILCO-Burnpur Works	1.02

Finalisation of 1984-85 Annual Plan for West Bengal

230. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Annual Plan for West Bengal for the year 1984-85 (has not yet been finalised due to insistence of the Central Government for cutting down the Plan size from that envisaged by the West Bengal Government; and

(b) if so, what are the grounds advanced by the Central Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) The Annual Plan of West Bengal for the year 1984-85 could not be finalised because of the insistence of the Government of West Bengal on having a Plan much larger in size than feasible with the resources available.

Setting up of a Currency Notes Printing Press in West Bengal

231. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for dis setting