

Demand for Industrial Goods

2553. SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for industrial goods has declined during the last few years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what would be its effect on the manufacturing industry as a whole and the steps taken to revive the demand for such goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) According to Economic Survey 1982-83 industries like agricultural tractors, caustic soda, soda ash, commercial vehicles, paper, saleable steel, etc. suffered from the problems of demand and supply adjustment.

Factors like severe drought and the consequent decline in agricultural income had a dampening effect on demand which influenced industrial production.

Monetary and fiscal measures are taken from time to time to correct such instances.

Promotion of industries based on desalination technology

2554. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have plans to promote industries based on desalination techno-

logy and for extraction of chemicals from sea water and from the sea bed and development of a pilot plan for the exploration of poly-metallic nodules; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the plans and what progress had been made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) CSIR is engaged in the development of technology for desalination and recovery of chemicals, industrial grade salts and potassic fertilizers. Research and Development on laboratory scale for extraction of metals from the polymetallic nodules is being undertaken.

Iron Ore in Kiriburu Mines of Bokaro Steel Plant

2555. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of iron ore in Kiriburu mines of Bokaro steel plant during the last three years, month-wise;

(b) whether power tripping and closure have been the major hurdles in production; and

(c) if so, what practical steps have been taken to supplement this power shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE):

(a) The production of iron ore in Kiriburu mines of Bokaro Steel Plant