

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the findings of the Magisterial Enquiry which was ordered by the Lt. Governor, Delhi, these escapes took place because of the negligence and laxity on the part of Jail Officials in complying with the relevant provisions of the Jail Manual. The Magisterial Enquiry has revealed that the visitors were allowed to interview the student prisoners in large numbers at the same time in the 'Deori' of the jail against the relevant provisions of the Jail Manual. The Crime Branch of the Delhi Police has also registered a case which is under investigation.

(c) Immediately on knowing of the escape, an F.I.R. was lodged with the Police. The Police arrested and later released on bail, eight jail officials, including one acting Deputy Superintendent, two Assistant Superintendents, one Chief Head Warder, one Head Warder, two Warders and one Gate Keeper who were found responsible for the incident. Of these the Deputy Superintendent, one Assistant Superintendent, one Head Warder and one Warder have also been placed under suspension by the jail authorities in this connection.

C.B.I. investigation into the murder of D.I.G. Police in Punjab

*71. SHRI HARISHANKAR BHABRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entrusted the job of investigation into the murder of Shri A. S. Atwal, DIG of Police, Jullundur to the C.B.I.; and

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The investigation of the case is still in progress and efforts are being made to arrest the murderer.

Unsold steel in the steel plants

*72. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: SHRI R. R. MORARKA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Steel Authority of India Ltd., has recently reduced the production of steel;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a large accumulated stock of unsold steel with the steel plants;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the quantity and value of stock as on the 31st March, 1983; and

(e) what steps have been taken by the steel plants to dispose of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) Production of saleable steel in SAIL steel plants went down to 9.19 lakh tonnes during April-June, 1983 but this was mainly due to severe power restrictions imposed on steel plants.

(b) to (e) As on 31st March, 1983 the steel plants and the home sales stockyards of SAIL had 1.45 million tonnes of steel valued at approximately Rs. 600 crores. Stock accumulation has taken place as production increased more rapidly than sales. But as a result of a special drive that has been launched, these stocks have been already reduced to 1.26 million tonnes valued at about Rs. 520 crores as on 1-7-83. The efforts to reduce stocks further are continuing. These efforts include:

(i) Relaxation in the production and distribution of steel.

(ii) Removal of end-use restrictions laid down under the Iron and Steel (Control) Order in respect of almost all the steel items.

(iii) Dispensing with the system of registered traders so that steel is offered to every purchaser.