

(b) whether the position in this regard is better in comparison to that in the previous year; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
(SHRI NARAYAN 15ATT TIWARI):
(a) and (b) A statement showing percentage growth rate (month-wise) of

index of industrial production (Base: 1970 100) during 1982 (January-November) and 1981 is enclosed. (See below).

(c) The slower growth rate could be due to differential performance of different industries on account of factors such as power shortages, international market conditions, industrial relations, short-term supply-demand imbalances, etc.

Statement

Percentage growth rate (monthwise) of index of industrial production (Base: 1960=100) during 1982 and 1981.

Month	Percentage growth rate 1982/1981	Percentage growth rate 1981/1980
January	+8.6	+8.1
February	+5.6	+8.2
March	+4.9	+9.9
April	+6.5	+12.8
May	+7.1	+8.8
June	+4.5	+12.5
July	+0.3	+10.5
August	+2.2	+8.8
September	+3.6	+7.9
October	+5.6	+6.1
November	+2.5	+9.4
December	Not available	+8.6

Figures are provisional.

Source: Central Statistical Organisation.

Unsold stocks with SAIL

1098. SHRI SUKOMAL, SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India Limited is having heavy unsold stocks and that they are frantically searching for prospective buyers;

(b) if so, what is the stock at hand with them on the 31st December, 1982 of different varieties of steel;

(c) what are the reasons for the decline in demand; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES
(SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) and (c) The stocks of saleable steel at SAIL plants and home sale stockyards as on 1-2-1983 were 1.425 million tonnes (Provisional). These stocks built up as sales did not keep pace with production.

(b) The category-wise stocks of saleable steel with SAIL Plants and stockyards as on 31-12-1982 are given below:—

('000 tonnes)

Category	Plants	Stockyards	Total
SEMS	135.1	157.8	292.9
ROUNDS	49.3	79.4	128.7
WIRE RODS	4.6	65.7	70.3
STRUCTURALS	43.9	80.0	123.9
PLATES	28.4	145.6	174.0
HR COILS/SKELP	48.8	103.0	151.8
HR SHEETS	9.1	51.5	60.6
CR SHEETS/COILS	17.8	157.5	175.3
GP/GG SHEETS	6.0	29.9	35.9
ELECT STEEL SHEETS	1.4	0.2	1.6
TIN PLATES	12.6	1.4	14.0
PIPES	8.9	0.1	9.0
OTHERS	..	2.5	2.5
RLY. MATERIALS (Including Light Rails)	13.7	15.3	29.0
DEFECTIVES	..	46.8	46.8
TOTAL:	379.6	936.7	1316.3

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Government and SAIL to stimulate sales:—

(i) The end use declaration provision under clause 7 of the Iron and Steel (Control) Order for steel materials, other than pig iron, has been dispensed with.

(ii) Distribution procedures have been relaxed.

(iii.) The system of registered traders has been abolished by SAIL and steel trade has been declared open to any one interested in trading in steel.

(iv) Price rebates are offered in selected categories/quantities of steel.

((v) Quantity discounts have been announced by SAIL.

(vi) Credit facilities on a selective basis for certain items are being offered by SAIL.

(vii) Disposal of old and damaged and non-moving stocks through traders.

(viii) A new scheme has been introduced whereby HR Coils/Skelp and CR Coils/Sheets will be supplied at internationally competitive prices to those who surrender their duty free REP Licences and Advance Licences. It has also been made obligatory for import licence holders enjoying facility for import of such canalised items under various facilities to first approach SAIL, for supply of such material.

(ix) Subject to prior sales, SAIL Will make inter-stock transfer at their own cost.

In addition, the following steps have been taken to improve the general situation: —

(i) Changes in the product-mix of SAIL plants have been made so that they produce more of high demand items and less of low demand items.

(ii) Import Policy with respect to steel items has been made more restrictive so that avoidable imports do not take place.

Popularisation of Science

1099. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps being taken by Government for popularising science and scientific thinking among the people;

(b) what are the names of the voluntary organisations being given financial assistance by Government in popularising Science and Technology; and

(c) what is the amount of financial assistance given by Government to the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad during the year 1981-82 for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Various agencies under several Government Ministries/ Departments are already engaged in this task in a variety of ways; for instance, through:

Broadcast of science programmes over radio and television, including science programmes specifically aimed at women, children and rural audiences;

Making and showing of films, television programmes and audio-visual shows on science and technology to people in cinema houses, on TV or elsewhere;

Organisation, and financial support for organisation, of seminars/symposia and popular lectures on various science subjects;

Publication of popular science magazines and literature on science subjects in the form of books, booklets, pamphlets posters etc., and financial support for publication of popular science magazines in regional languages;

Setting up of science museums/centres and organising of static and mobile science exhibitions and fairs around the country; and so on.

Additionally, the Govt. has set up a National Council for Science & Technology Communication which will promote popularisation of science and technology and scientific thinking among people.

(b) The Government is providing financial help in this regard to a very large number of voluntary agencies, professional bodies and associations for programmes/activities, proposals for which are submitted to it within the framework of various well-publicised schemes, operative under different departments and/or their agencies. Also, the Government has been encouraging the formation of Science & Technology Councils in various States whose activities include promotion of popularisation of science and scientific thinking among people. As an example, a representative list of voluntary agencies which are being given financial assistance for publication of popular science magazine in different regional languages is appended. (See below).

(c) Rupees twenty five thousand (Rs. 25,000) only, largely as assistance for publication of popular science journals in Malayalam.