

Steel during the period April to May, 1980 is given below:—

(April to May, 1980)

Ingot Steel . . .	223,000 tonnes
Salable Steel . . .	216,000 tonnes

(c) Various steps are being taken to increase the supply of Coal and Power to the Steel Plants. In addition, a proposal to augment indigenous supply by import of high grade low ash coking coal from abroad is also under consideration. The position regarding supply of coking coal and power to steel plants is being reviewed every week by the Cabinet Committee on Industrial Infrastructure.]

**Establishment of Regional Office of State Trading Corporation at Gauhati**

1338. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 916 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th March, 1980 and state:

(a) whether a Regional Office of the State Trading Corporation has since been established at Gauhati;

(b) whether this Regional Office holds newsprint buffer-stock at Gauhati for supplying to the whole of the North-eastern region; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). In view of the difficulties faced by small newspapers in North-Eastern Region, the Newsprint Purchase Committee of the STC has approved holding of newsprint buffer stock at Gauhati. However, it has not been possible to set up this office due to disturbed conditions in the North Eastern Region.

**Employees of General Insurance Corporation**

1339. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:  
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:  
SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the proposed strike on the 17th July, 1980 by the employees union of the General Insurance Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are their demands and what steps are being taken by Government to settle demands and abort the proposed strike?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands of the Employees' Unions are:—

(i) No erosion in the existing rights, privileges, salary and Dearness Allowance.

(ii) Agreement on revised service conditions to be signed under the Industrial Disputes Act.

(iii) Benefits already curtailed to be restored.

The Employees Unions of the General Insurance Corporation of India have been demanding wage revision and improvement in their service conditions. The management of the General Insurance Corporation of India examined the demands of the unions and framed proposals for the revision of pay scales and improvement in service conditions. The proposals made by the General Insurance Corporation were examined by the Ministry of Finance and guidelines were given to the management in March, 1980 to resume discussions with the Employees' Unions. The General Insurance Corporation has had several rounds of discussion with the union—last being on 12th and 13th June, 1980. The concrete offer made by the General Insurance Corporation stipulates

considerable improvement in the pay scales and other conditions of service of employees resulting in substantial additional burden on the wage bill. However, the Unions have again raised certain new demands and the General Insurance Corporation is currently working out the implications of the demands now made and will soon resume discussions.

It may be mentioned that the scales of pay and other conditions of service of Class III and IV employees of the General Insurance are governed by Scheme framed by Central Government in exercise of powers conferred under Section 16 of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 according to which any scheme framed under this Section shall have the effect of law notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other law. In view of this, the question of a settlement under Industrial Disputes Act does not arise. However, as mentioned above, though the Government has statutory powers to revise the pay scales and other service condition of the employees the management is adopting the consultative process in the interest of maintaining healthy industrial relations.

It may be mentioned that certain provisions of the General Insurance (Rationalisation and Revision of Pay Scales and Other Conditions of Service of Supervisory, Clerical and Subordinate Staff) Scheme, 1974, dated 27-5-1974, amended from time to time, governing pay scales and other terms and conditions of service of the employees have been challenged in courts of law and these are sub-judice.

#### **Economic Cooperation between India and E.E.C.**

1340. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that talks were held in Brussels on a new commercial and economic cooperation

agreement between India and the European Economic Community; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the first round of negotiations between the officials of the Embassy of India, Brussels and the Commission of the European Communities, the drafts of the proposed new commercial and economic cooperation agreement were exchanged. The new economic and commercial cooperation agreement between India and the European Economic Community is sought to cover all areas of economic and industrial cooperation including cooperation in the fields of industry, science and technology, research and development and joint ventures in third countries.

#### **Script of light and sound programme of Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad**

1341. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the script of light and sound programme of Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad was being revised;

(b) who was asked to write a new script;

(c) whether the script written by him has been accepted; and

(d) what is the final position on the approved script for this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Professor C. C. Mehta has written the English script of the revised show. The text of this script was approved by the former Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, with some modifications. This script is being utilised for the artistic production of the show.