

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down all Military dairy farms;

(h) if so, what is the number of cattle heads in these farms at present and the manner in which these cattle will be disposed of; and

(c) the number of employees working in these farms and what action is being taken for their absorption in alternative jobs?]

उप प्रधान मंत्री तथा रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जगज्वन राम) : (क) विद्यमान परिस्थितियों के संदर्भ में सैनिक डेयरी फार्म के पुनर्गठन के प्रश्न पर इस समय विचार किया जा रहा है। सैनिक डेयरी फार्मों को बन्द करने के बारे में अभी कोई निर्णय नहीं किया गया है।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

; THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) The question of re-organisation of Military Dairy Farms in the context of existing conditions is presently under examination. No decision has yet been taken with regard to closure of Military Dairy Farms.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.]

Requirements of graphite electrodes and magnesite bricks by mini-steel plants

1765. SHRI HAREKRUSHNA MALICK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the present demand and supply position of graphite electrodes and magnesite bricks required by the mini-steel plants in the country;

(b) what is the year-wise rise in their prices during the last three years; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure their supply to the actual users?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) The present annual demand of graphite electrodes from the mini steel plant units is estimated at about 14,000 tonnes. The indigenous production of graphite electrodes from the four units during 1978 was about 14,500 tonnes, as against the present installed capacity of about 23,000 tonnes. The production was low due to the reasons like lock-out in one of the units for a few months, raw material supply problem, power shortage etc.

The present demand of basic bricks (magnesite and chrome magnesite) from mini steel plant industry is about 18,000 tonnes. Production of about 125,000 tonnes of basic bricks during the current year is expected to meet by and large the total requirements of the country, including those for the mini-steel plants.

(b) The average prevailing price of graphite electrodes and basic bricks during 1976-77, 1977-78, 1978-79 was as follows:

	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
Graphite Electrodes	11,630	12,800	15,000
Basic Bricks (Magnesite, Chrome Magnesite)	2000/2400	2400/2600	1600/2800

[] English Translation.