

**Shortage of Iron and Steel in  
Madhya Pradesh**

426. SHRI YOGENDRA  
SHARMA:

SHRI LAKSHMANA  
MAHAPATRO:

SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:

SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN  
SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that thousands of small scale units in Madhya Pradesh are on the verge of closure due to acute shortage of iron and steel;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps Government have taken to meet their requirements;

(c) whether there is a general shortage of steel in the country at present; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps Government propose to take to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) and (b) Supplies of steel to small scale units are routed through the State Small Industries Corporations. The steel requirements of the small scale units in Madhya Pradesh are to be met mainly by the Madhya Pradesh Laghu Udyog Nigam Limited. Supplies to the Nigam have been considerably stepped up as compared to the previous years. The supplies made by SAIL during the first six months of this financial year are more than the total supplies made during the full year of 1977-78. Steps are under way to further increase the supply during the second half of the current year. Periodical meetings are held by the Iron and Steel Controller with the producers to review the supplies. Subject to overall availability, the

producers try to meet the requirements of the small scale units holding essentiality certificates and those manufacturing agricultural implements. Meetings are also held with the representatives of the Nigam and other SSI Corporations to sort out their problems.

(c) and (d) There is a shortage in certain categories of steel, like H.R. Coils, Sheets, C.R. Sheets, plates structurals etc. The shortages are being met by imports. Currently steps are also being taken to increase indigenous production.

**Survey conducted by the Gandhi Peace Foundation and the National Labour Institute on bonded labour**

427. SHRI YOGENDRA  
SHARMA:

SHRI INDRADEEP  
SINHA:

SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a survey conducted by the Gandhi Peace Foundation and the National Labour Institute on the bonded labour in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the main findings thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI LARANG SAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir; According to preliminary analysis of the data collected during the Survey in question, the number of persons affected by debt-bondage in the States covered by the Survey, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and