

(d) The plant was scheduled to be commissioned by January, 1976 but was actually commissioned in June, 1976, except for the Second Welding Machine which was completed in December, 1976.

Outstanding dues of SAIL

927. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the parties against whom more than a crore of rupees were outstanding and payable to the steel plants under the SAIL as on 30th December, 1977;

(b) what are reasons for not realising the outstanding amount; and

(c) whether any interest is charged on that amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA):

(a) As on 31-12-1977, the following parties owed SAIL more than Rs. 1 crore:—

1. Eastern Railway,
2. Northern Railway,
3. South-Eastern Railway,
4. Heavy-Engineering Corporation,
5. Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd.,
6. Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi,
7. Kalinga Tubes Limited,
8. Bharat Steel Tubes Limited,
9. Hindustan Motors Limited.

(b) In the case of Railways and

Heavy Engineering Corporation, the amounts remained outstanding beyond the permitted periods pending settlement of certain disputes/differences over prices sales tax and the method of regularising the excess supplies. As regards Heavy Vehicles Factory, the prices are under negotiation. In the case of other parties, the outstandings were due to their financial difficulties. However, all efforts are being made to realise the amounts due.

As on 30-6-1978, the outstandings had come down below Rs. 1 crore except in the case of two parties.

(c) The interest for delayed payment is charged from private parties.

Production and requirement of steel

928. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an inter-ministerial committee has lately assessed an increase of about 10 per cent per annum in the requirement of steel in the country,

(b) if so, what is the estimated demand for steel at the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) what are the targets of production fixed under the plan indicating project-wise the additional capacity to be raised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) to (c) The Draft Sixth Five Year Rolling Plan of the Planning Commission has estimated the demand for saleable steel to rise from 6.94 million tonnes in 1977-78 to 10.9 million tonnes in