

steel and saleable steel is given below:—

Plant	(In thousand tonnes)	
	Installed capacity	
	Ingot Steel	Saleable Steel
Bhilai	2500	1965
Durgapur	1600	1239
Rourkela	1800	1225
TISCO	2000	1500
IISCO	1000	800

Only a few units of Bokaro Steel Plant have been commissioned so far.

(b) None of these plants is presently working to its full installed capacity. The lower utilization of capacity at these plants during the last few years has been due to a variety of reasons differing from plant to plant and often from year to year. Broadly speaking, the main factors were: the unsatisfactory working of coke oven batteries; back-log of maintenance; inadequate maintenance leading to equipment troubles and break-downs; collapse of the steel melting shop roof of Rourkela Steel Plant in July, 1971, affecting the operation of the entire steel plant for several months; inadequate replacement, repairs and maintenance programmes in IISCO; disturbed industrial relations, particularly in the Durgapur Steel Plant and IISCO and to some extent in the Rourkela Steel Plant; power restrictions/failures and severe power cuts (interruptions; inadequate availability of coal, and serious dislocation in rail movement on account of intermittent slow down and industrial unrest in the Railways in 1973-74. In the current financial year, the production at these plants had to be regulated and kept low during the months, April-June, 1974, with a view to conserving stocks of raw materials, first on account of the possibility of the strike by the Railway employees and then on account of the strike itself and its aftermath. There have been certain difficulties in regard to supply of power and coal also].

#### Time-table for D.T.C, commuters

441. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring out an up-to-date time table showing the reorganised routes of the D.T.C, buses and fare stages etc. for the benefit of commuters; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be brought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRI-VEDI): (a) and (b) An abstract Time Table 1974 of the reorganised services has been printed by D.T.C, and will be put on sale shortly. This can be had from Information and Enquiry booths and pass sections of D.T.C, against a payment of 40 paise per copy.

#### Tourist vehicles

442. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN  
ARIF: SHRI QASIM ALI ABID:  
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM  
KHAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the official number of permits issued by the Delhi Administration, Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan for Delhi-based tourist vehicles have remained static while the number of tourist vehicles has increased;

(b) whether it is a fact that only a limited number of Delhi-based tourist vehicles have endorsements for unrestricted operation between Delhi-Uttar Pradesh and Delhi-Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to grant greater number of endorsements to meet the present requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRI-VEDI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the Delhi Administration, the number of tourist vehicles to be operated in accordance with the inter-State agreements between Delhi and U.P. is 600 and between Delhi and Rajasthan is 500. The number of operators who have not renewed their counter-signatures is not readily available with the Administration. The Administration propose to take up the matter with States concerned to increase the quota of tourist vehicles to be operated under counter-signatures, if the number of pending applications exceeds the number of vacancies.

#### **Indo-Pak relations**

443. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.-

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister of Pakistan has expressed his desire to have talks on the Kashmir issue within the framework of Simla agreement; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) The Prime Minister of Pakistan is reported to have made statements that Pakistan was ready to hold talks on Kashmir with India, under the Simla Agreement.

(b) India's stand on Kashmir and the Simla Agreement is well-known. The Simla Agreement envisages bilateral discussions on Kashmir after implementation Of normalisation mea-

asures and in the context of the establishment of durable peace. As the House is aware, talks on the implementation of normalisation measures, are yet to be completed.

444. [Transferred to the 28th November, 1974],

#### **Reaction of neighbouring countries on associate Status to Sikkim**

445. SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the reaction of neighbouring countries to the latest amendment to the Constitution of India providing for associate status to Sikkim?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): Except for China, Pakistan and Nepal no other neighbouring country has reacted adversely to Sikkim being associated with the Union of India. The reaction of China and Pakistan has been hostile. In Nepal, after an initial, adverse reaction, there is a somewhat better understanding of the situation.

#### **Purchase of large sized tankers by Shipping Corporation of India**

446. SHRI J. S. ANAND: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of large-sized tankers for movement of crude which have been purchased with World Bank loan by the Shipping Corporation of India and have been given on charter to various oil companies;

(b) what is the amount spent on these vessels;

(c) what has been their percentage utilisation since their purchase; and

(d) whether these ships can be sub-chartered to other parties; and if so, to what extent have they been sub-chartered to increase their earnings?