

main integrated steel plants viz. Bhilai, Durgapur, Rourkela, TISCO and IISCO, was fixed at 5.441 million tonnes. However, the production likely to materialise in 1973-74 from these plants is estimated to be about 4.5 million tonnes. The shortfall is principally due to: (i) severe power cuts and power interruptions especially in the period April to November, 1973. The power cuts and power interruptions were responsible in a large measure for lower production of steel in Durgapur Steel Plant, IISCO and to a lesser extent in Rourkela. Power cuts and power interruptions in this period affected the entire Jharia coalfields and led to curtailment operation of coal washeries and also coal mining which, in turn affected steel production. (ii) Intermittent slow down and industrial unrest in Railways, especially in the South Eastern and Eastern Railways, affected movement of coal to washeries and to steel plants leading to coke oven pushings being reduced to low levels.

The disruption in rail transportation system which led to critically low stocks of coking coal and other raw materials in the steel plants and consequent cut-back in production schedules, and the industrial relations problems especially at Durgapur, hampered production. Keeping in view all the steps being taken to overcome these constraints, especially in the movement of coal, the Steel Authority of India have proposed that the production target for saleable steel in 1974-75 from the five main integrated plants may be fixed at 5.19 million tonnes, which is lower than the current year's target of 5.441 million tonnes, but is higher than the production of 4.793 million tonnes achieved in 1972-73 and much higher than the anticipated production in 1973-74. A final view is, however, yet to be taken on the production targets for 1974-75.

Construction of quarters for displaced persons from erstwhile East Pakistan

151. SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the displaced persons from erstwhile East Pakistan in Tollygunj area

(Calcutta) were allotted aluminium sheds for their residential accommodation;

(b) if so, the number of such sheds initially allotted;

(c) whether at any stage Government decided to demolish those sheds and replace them by brick-built quarters; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in constructing such quarters?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

U.S. Military base at Diego Garcia

152. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD :

SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA :

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA :

SHRI V. K. SAKHLECHA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States Government have decided to convert a small communications centre at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean into a full-fledged United States Military base following the U.K.—U.S.A. Agreement; and

(b) if so, what is Government of India's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) The naval facilities on the Island of DIEGO GARCIA in the Indian Ocean are being expanded with a view to provide support for a flexible range of activity, including maintenance, bunkering of ships, operation and staging of aircraft and enhanced communications.

(b) Government of India are opposed to all foreign bases in the Indian Ocean. Government's policy that the Indian Ocean should be accepted as a 'Zone of Peace' is known to the House.