

(a) whether the installed capacity of the Durgapur Steel Plant has since been renewed by the Steel Authority of India Ltd., and the Action Committee of the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The report of the Action Committee of the Planning Commission is in the last stage of finalisation.

Stampede at International Tamil Conference in the Sri Lanka

1127. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA :
SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many persons died in stampede followed by police tear-gas and lathi charge at an International Tamil Conference at Jaffna held in the 2nd week of January 1974;

(b) whether Government have lodged any protest in this regard with the Government of Sri Lanka; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No incident occurred during the actual period of the International Tamil Conference held at Jaffna from January 3-9, 1974. However, after the conclusion of the Conference a public meeting was organized on January 10. At this meeting the large crowd became somewhat restive and while police measures were being taken to prevent

any incident, a high-tension cable collapsed. This and the attendant stampede resulted in the death of 7 persons and injuries to some 20 persons.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Distribution system of steel

1128. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT :
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL :
SHRIMATI SAVITA BHEN :
SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN :

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

(a) the present system of distribution of steel to small scale industries;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government propose to streamline the system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) Supplies of steel to the small scale industrial units all over the country are now mostly routed through the respective State Small Scale Industries Corporations. The Corporations make their own assessment of the requirements of the units and place consolidated demands with the Joint Plant Committee. Material received against these demands is distributed by the Corporations through their depots.

(b) and (c) The present system of distribution has been working satisfactorily. However, the system of distribution is reviewed from time to time and changes therein are made wherever necessary