

Economic reports for the expansion of these plants are to be prepared by the Indian organisations with the assistance of Soviet organisations as necessary. The report on the expansion of Bhilai has already been prepared by Metallurgical Engineering Consultants (INDIA) Limited (MECON).

Steel Production in the Country

688. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT :

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA :

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

(a) whether Government have chalked out any programme of adding two million tonnes of steel producing capacity every year to its existing plants ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard ;

(c) whether Government propose to set up new integrated steel plants in the country ; and

(d) if so, the places where they are likely to be set up ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) : (a) and (b) According to the proposals under consideration for steel development during the Fifth Plan, the steel making capacity in integrated steel plants is proposed to be increased from the existing level of 8.9 million ingot tonnes to 15.15 million ingot tonnes by the end of the Fifth Plan i.e. an addition of 6.25 million ingot tonnes in the Fifth Plan period. This additional capacity is to be obtained through the expansion of Bhilai from its present capacity of 2.5 million ingot tonnes to 4 million tonnes and continuing the work at Bokaro to achieve a capacity of 4.75 million ingot tonnes by 1978-79. Proposals for the expansion of the Jamshedpur works of the Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., from 2 million ingot tonnes to about 4.5 million tonnes are also under

consideration. The contribution from electric furnaces for the production of mild steel ingots/billets by the end of the Fifth Plan period is expected to be about one million tonnes.

(c) and (d) Three new steel plants are to be set up at Visakhapatnam, Vijayanagar and Salem. The Visakhapatnam and Vijayanagar projects would be integrated steel plants while the one at Salem is for the production of special steels.

Minimum Wage for Agricultural Labour

689. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to fix minimum wage for agricultural labour ;

(b) the existing wage structure of agricultural labour ; and

(c) whether Government have made any assessment as to the number of labourers likely to be benefited ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BAL GOVIND VERMA) : (a) Minimum wages for agricultural labourers have already been fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, by the Central and the State Governments in their respective spheres. In some States, special laws have been enacted to fix wages for agricultural labour.

(b) The Central Government in their capacity as 'appropriate Government' have, in August, 1973, notified minimum wages for employment in agriculture ranging between Rs. 3.50 to Rs. 5.15 per day according to areas, for unskilled workers. Up-to-date information regarding the wages fixed by the State Governments is not available.

(c) The notified wages cover the entire employment in agriculture as defined in Part II of the Schedule to the Minimum

Wages Act, 1948. No assessment regarding the precise number of workers benefited by wage fixation has been made.

Manufacture of motor cycles by M/s. Enfield

690. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have allowed expansion in the installed capacity for manufacture of motor cycles to M/s. Enfield;

(b) if so, the existing installed capacity and the expansion allowed ;

(c) whether the firm has also been permitted to instal a factory in Tamil Nadu for the manufacture of motor cycles; and

(d) if so, whether any financial assistance has also been given by Government to the firm for its factory in Tamil Nadu and the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing installed capacity is 12,800 vehicles per annum which covers motor cycles, scooters and three-wheelers. Almost the entire capacity is being utilised for making motor cycles, they have been allowed to expand their capacity to 30,000 vehicles per annum including 27,000 motor cycles.

(c) The firm's existing industrial undertaking is in the Chingleput Distt. of Tamil Nadu State. They have been permitted to effect the expansion by setting up another unit in the Remnad Distt. of the same State.

(d) No, Sir.

Savings in the Ministry of Labour

691. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the proposed cut or economy likely to be effected in the Ministry of Labour to meet the present financial stringency ;

(b) the details thereof ; and

(c) the schemes/projects likely to be affected ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BAL GOVIND VERMA) : (a) (i) On non-developmental expenditure a 10% cut has been imposed on Travel Expenses and Office Contingencies.

(ii) A similar saving is being effected on developmental schemes by reducing the Plan expenditure by 10% of the total outlay for the year 1973-74.

(b) (i) Likely savings on (a) (i) will be Rs. 9.53 lakhs.

(ii) Likely savings on (a) (ii) be Rs. 21.45 lakhs as follows :

	Rs. in lakhs
(1) Deferring of construction of Office building for National Labour Institute	9.45
(2) Loan to Dock Labour Boards' Low Income Group Housing Scheme	1.00
(3) Training Schemes under Directorate General of Employment and Training	8.67
(4) Employment Schemes under Directorate General of Employment and Training	2.33
TOTAL	21.45

(c) None of the schemes detailed above is likely to be materially affected as most of these schemes are gaining momentum gradually.