

tonnes to 3.2 million tonnes capacity is likely to be delayed by a year because of Russian unwillingness to carry through their part of the bargain ;

(b) whether the Soviet action would also involve the plant in a production loss of several crores of rupees; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) :

(a) The Sixth Blast Furnace Complex which comprises the first phase of the expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant from 2.5 million tonnes to 3.2 million tonnes capacity is now scheduled to be commissioned in the middle of 1971. Government are not aware of any unwillingness on the part of the Soviet Union to carry through their part of the bargain.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

REPLACEMENT OF COACHES ATTACHED TO PUNJAB MAIL

455. SARDAR NARINDAR SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the First Class and some other coaches are changed when the Punjab Mail leaves for Punjab and most of the fittings in the coaches so changed are not fully equipped with necessary fittings; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND RAILWAYS (SHRI P. GOVINDA MENON) :

(a) and (b) 7 coaches are detached from 5 Dn. Bombay VT-Ferozepur Punjab Mail at Delhi station and 8 coaches attached to this train when leaving there for Ferozepur. The coaches attached to Punjab Mail at Delhi Junction have generally their full complement of fittings. It may be assured that every effort is being made to see that the coaches are provided with their full complement of fittings.

SUPPLY OF STEEL TO TAMIL NADU

456. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India are not able to supply the allotted quantity of steel to the Tamil Nadu state ;

(b) whether Government are aware that many industrial units in small scale industry in that State are idle for want of steel; and

(c) what is the quantity allotted for 1969 and what quantity has so far been supplied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT):

(a) and (b) Because of limited production and increase in demand and the need to cater to the demands from the priority sectors like Defence, Exports, etc., it has not generally been possible to effect despatches of scarce categories of steel like sheets, plates, billets, etc., to the full extent of the allocations to all States. However, with a view to helping the small scale sector, Hindustan Steel Limited have been requested to sell 90% of their arisings of defective sheets and sheet cuttings to actual users through their stockyards on the recommendations of the Director of Industries of the State concerned. The other 10% of the arisings of defective sheets and sheet cuttings will be utilized for clearance of backlog of orders pending with them. Imports have also been liberalised from time to time, to supplement indigenous availability.

(c) The required information is being collected.

PELLETISATION PLANT IN TAMIL NADU

457. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given approval to the proposal to start pelletisation plant at Salem to the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K.C. PANT) :

(a) The Feasibility study for setting up a pelletisation plant at Salem was included in the State's Draft Fourth Five Year Plan, when it was discussed in the Planning Commission in November, 1968.

(b) Does not arise.