

FACTORIES USING SHEET STEEL

*175. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of factories using sheet steel as primary raw material;

(b) the percentage of capacity to which these factories have been working due to lack of sheet steel; and

(c) the steps Government have taken so far to enable these factories to work to their full capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) There are 436 factories who receive steel sheets from the Central steel processing industries quota. The information regarding the factories getting sheets from the steel processing industries quota of the States is not available.

(b) The percentage of capacity claimed by various factories varies from factory to factory. The percentage of allocation of steel also varies from factory to factory depending on the essentiality of the item manufactured.

(c) The indigenous capacity for manufacturing sheets is being increased. Import is also being resorted to within the limitations of foreign exchange availability.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is it a fact that a large number of factories are lying idle and are working to half capacity only because of want of raw materials?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: So far as availability of steel generally is concerned, the position is somewhat easy but so far as sheets are concerned, there is some difficulty but it is difficult for me to say as to whether factories are working to full capacity or not. It depends, as I indicated in the main reply, on the essentiality of the item that is manufactured.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is the Minister aware that forging

units put up at considerable costs and with loans obtained from the Industrial Finance Corporation have been lying idle for years and that interest is accruing on the loans, as a result of which great hardship is felt by these units? The units do not get their essential raw materials.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: If a specific unit is mentioned, I am prepared to look into its case.

SHRI M. M. SUR: Is not the Rourkela Plant likely to produce 28 and 38 gauge steel sheets?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: As the House is no doubt aware, the Rourkela Plant is designed essentially to meet the country's requirements of flat steel including sheets. It is expected that flat steel produced in this plant would be available in the course of 1950.

COMPENSATION GIVEN TO THE FAMILIES OF POLICEMEN KILLED IN LADAKH AREA

*176. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the amount of compensation given or proposed to be given by Government to the families of those brave policemen who sacrificed their lives in Ladakh area on the 21st October, 1959 while on duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): Special awards of Rs. 2,000 each will be given to the families of the deceased constables, in addition to pensions and gratuities admissible under the service rules.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know whether their children will be educated by the Government, and whether after their education, they will be offered positions or service under the Government?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: If they have any children, then there are rules according to which they would get some special benefits.