

Taking over of management of plants by the Ministry

896. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state whether Government is taking over the management of Badbil Keonjhar, Ferro Chrome Plant, Jajpur and Nilachal Ispat Nigam, Dungri, if so, the details thereof and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal under consideration in this Ministry.

Copper ore supplied by NMDC

897. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) is the major supplier of copper, copper-based industries in the country, if so, the details of the copper ore supplied in the last three years;

(b) whether the ore supplied by NMDC is sufficient in both quality and quantity to meet the demands of the indigenous industrial units, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total volume of production and supply of copper from all the indigenous industries in the last three years, year-wise, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply given at (a) above.

Improving efficiency of steel plants

898. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of steel plants that are presently operating in the public and private sector, location-wise;

(b) the number out these which are earning profit with details of capacity utilisation in each case; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to improve the operational efficiency of steel plants functioning in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) There are two public sector steel manufacturing companies in the country, namely, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL). SAIL has got eight steel plants and State-wise details of their location are as under: