

MODITIES

Steel output grows most in year after imports decline

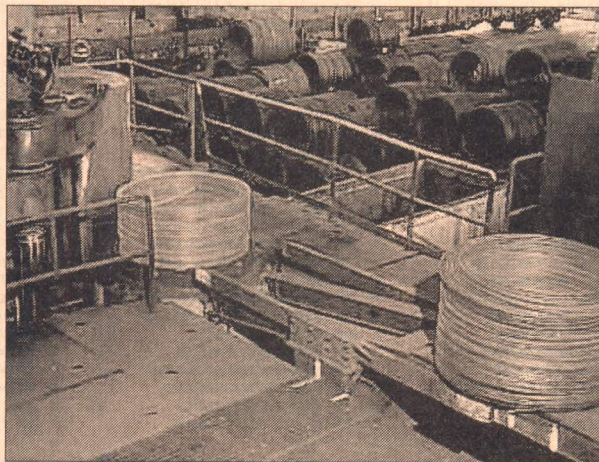
■ Demand rises 1% to 6.97 MT, imports tumble 36% to 619,000 tonne

Mumbai, Sept 6

STEEL production in India climbed the most in at least a year as producers fire up capacity in expectation of growing demand in Asia's third-biggest economy.

Output in August advanced 12% to 8.24 million metric tonnes from a year earlier, the biggest gain since at least August 2015, according to monthly data provided by the steel ministry. Demand in the world's third-biggest producer rose 1% to 6.97 million tonnes, while imports tumbled 36% to 619,000 tonne.

Top producers such as JSW Steel Ltd and Steel Au-



thority of India Ltd are aiming for record output in the financial year ending March 31 amid forecasts of demand growing as much as 5%.

Steelmakers may boost market share as imports slid for a fifth month after the government in August extended restrictions on imports to pro-

tect domestic mills from cheaper exports by China, the world's top producer, Russia, South Korea and Japan.

India extended the floor price mechanism on some imports for two months until October 4, and levied anti-dumping taxes on hot and cold rolled coils purchases.

Exports surged 87% to 680,000 tonnes in August from a year earlier, according to the provisional data from the ministry. For the April-August period, imports were down 35% to 3.01 million tonnes, production rose 7.9% to 40.5 million tonnes and consumption advanced 1.3% to 33.74 million tonnes, it said.

Bloomberg