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**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
*Daniel C. Roper, Secretary*  
**BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE**  
*Frederick M. Folker, Director*

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# IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY AND TRADE OF INDIA



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## FOREWORD

Although iron has been produced in India since time immemorial, the Indian iron and steel industry of today is in no wise the outgrowth or development of this early production. While the present four major iron and/or steel companies were organized and commenced operations at various dates over the past 50 years, it was not until just prior to the World War that the development of the industry made any appreciable progress. At the present time the local industry, it is estimated, supplies 40 percent of domestic requirements—the balance being drawn from a variety of sources, of which the United Kingdom is the chief, total consumption being in the neighborhood of 2,500,000 tons per annum. Per capita consumption, however, is very low, an approximate figure of only 14 pounds being frequently stated, but with India's growing industrialization this may be expected to increase in coming years.

Except for pig iron, India is not a factor in the world export trade in iron and steel. Pig iron exports amounted to 568,000 tons in 1929-30, a record performance up to and since that time—the 1931-32 exports being only 350,000 tons. The United States annually purchases a considerable proportion of this exportation—in 1931-32 this country took 14.6 percent of the total exported.

The Iron and Steel Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce keeps in close touch with developments in the iron and steel trade and industry of all countries, including India, and invites inquiries from interested parties relative to these industries.

FREDERICK M. FEIKER, *Director,*  
*Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.*

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