



## Source 5

**British summary of a USSR newspaper report on the production of consumer goods, 1938**

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### Questions

1. Why do you think children's beds were made out of scrap metal?
2. The USSR government decided how many consumer goods were produced. What factors do you think the government took into account when deciding how much to produce?
3. By how much was the production of metal consumer goods behind target in the first 5 months of 1938?
4. What problems might this have caused for:
  - a. the government?
  - b. consumers?
  - c. factory managers?
  - d. factory workers?



## Source 5

"Industria" of the 22nd July reports that the People's Commissariat for Heavy Industry has issued a decree dealing with the production of articles of necessity. 14

According to the decree it has been discovered as a result of an examination of the work of the principal organisations dealing with the production of consumers' goods that the annual production programme of metal consumers' goods was only fulfilled to the extent of 30.2% in the first five months of 1938 within the sphere of the People's Commissariat for Heavy Industry whereas during that period it should have been fulfilled to the extent of 41.4%.

Figures for individual articles are : - crockery 24% of plan; household goods 31.3%; tools 30.5%; agricultural equipment 30.3%; iron stoves 28.5%; radio sets 14.5%; childrens' bath tubs 14.7%; childrens' beds made of scrap metal 30.5%. The blame for this is laid on the "GUMP" (State ironfoundry enterprise) which is supposed to produce over 60% of the total requirements in metal articles whereas this organisation only fulfilled its plan during the period under review up to 27.1%.