

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to encourage domestic steel producers to cater to the needs of domestic industrial units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAMSINGH YADAV): (a) The London Metal Exchange (LME) price of Aluminium has risen to an average of US \$ 1505 in July, 1994 from an average of US \$ 1177.07 in January, 1992.

(b) Due to increased exports by domestic producers, there was no shortage of steel materials in the country during 1993-94.

(c) Government has taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel in the country. Modernisation and expansion of public sector steel plants has been taken up. Government have also adopted various policy measures to facilitate and encourage the creation of additional steel production capacities in the private sector which are as follows :—

(i) removal of iron and steel from the list of industries reserved for the public sector ;

(ii) exemption of iron and steel industry from the provisions of compulsory licensing ;

(iii) inclusion of iron and steel in the list of high priority industry for purposes of foreign investments ;

(iv) de-regulation of pricing and distribution of iron and steel ;

(v) reduction of duty on import of capital goods ;

(vi) liberalisation of import and export policy.

Violation of rules by supply department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands

516. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation in connection with the alleged gross violation in implementation of Rules of Government of India on Labour Cooperatives by the Supply Department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to stop such violation of rules ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As reported by Government of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the allegations contained in the representation were examined by them and found to be baseless.

Shakahari Movement in the country

517. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shakahari movement is gaining momentum in the country ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 75 per cent of the people of the country are vegetarians and 90 percent are against killing of animals ; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to make the movement a success ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) No such information is available.