

(b) if so, what items of steel are likely to be imported and what would be its cost in foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE):

(a) Government have allowed the import of steel during 1985-86.

(b) The main items of import are billets, plates structurals, sheets, strips, coils, bars and rods. The outgo in foreign exchange will depend on the quantities actually imported by users.

Import of rice by Gulf countries

†2337. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Gulf countries have been importing rice from India;

(b) if so, the names of the countries importing rice;

(c) what are the names of the canalising agencies;

(d) whether Government are aware that the canalising agencies have failed to export the contracted quantity of rice;

(e) whether two prestigious rice deals by the Abu Dhabi municipality and supply company of Kuwait have been cancelled and other deals are also facing cancellation as reported in the *Times of India* of 27th July 1985; and

(f) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) During 1982-83 to 1984-85, basmati rice was exported to Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. Export of non-basmati rice is not permitted.

(c) The current export policy provides for export of basmati rice under Open General Licence. Export of Basmati rice is not canalised through any agency.

†Previously Unstarred Question 166 transferred from the 9th August, 1985. I

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Abu Dhabi Municipality has cancelled the contract placed on S.T.C. S.T.C. did not enter into contract with the Kuwait supply Company.

(f) S.T.C. is making efforts to negotiate fresh deal for export of Basmati rice to Abu Dhabi,

Export of wheat to Pakistan

@2338. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

S MR (MATI KAILASHPATI):

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have explored the possibility of export wheat; and

(b) whether Pakistan has offered to barter its fertilisers with our wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Rationing of Foreign scrap vessels

@2339. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have resorted to rationing in the supply of foreign scrap vessels for ship breaking units in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the policy in this regard;

@SPreviously Unstarred Question 1669, transferred from the 9th August, 1985.

@@ Previously Unstarred Question. 2043, transferred from the 14th August, 1985.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ship breaking units are not able to utilise even half of the capacity because of rationing;

(d) if so, what are the details of the average capacity of each of the units and the imported scrap ships proposed to be supplied to each of them for the year 1985-86; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to increase the supply of scrap ships to these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (d) To ensure equitable distribution of imported scrap vessels it has been decided that MSTC would allocate approximately equal tonnage to all shipbreaking units in the country. On the basis of anticipated imports during the current year this would work out to an average allotment of about 5000 LDTs per unit as against the average capacity of a little more than 9000 LDTs of units registered with MSTC. This would mean an average capacity utilisation of more than 50 per cent.

(e) The quantity of imported ships is determined by the gap in the demand for and availability of rerollables from various sources for production of bars and rods in the country. The quantity planned for import during the current year is double the tonnage actually imported during the year 1984-85.

Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction

2340. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE " (SHRI JANARDHAN PPOOARI): (a) and (b) A legislation for establishing a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction to deal with sick industrial concerns is under consideration of the Government.

Situation in Textile Industry in Ahmedabad

2341. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the statement made by the President, Ahmedabad Textile Mills Association regarding the situation in the textile industry wherein it has been stated that condition in the textile industry might worsen resulting in closure of more units, unless the Central and the State Governments as well as the Reserve Bank take positive measures to assist the units;

(b) whether it is a fact that mills have no capacity to pay wages and no money for buying raw materials and spares; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to make on-the-spot assessment of the gravity of the situation and devise immediate measures to assist the units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) In a message sent by the President Ahmedabad Textile Mills Association he has stated that the textile mills are facing severe liquidity problems on account of piling up of stocks due to law and order problems,

(c) With improvement in the law and order situation this problem is expected to be resolved.