

(c) The policy envisages to ensure orderly and balanced spread-over of financially sound and viable units of the co-operative banking industry in the entire country so as to avoid either proliferation of banks without adequate scope or unhealthy competition amongst primary urban co-operative banks. With this objective in view the RBI has been laying emphasis on each such bank to have a compact well-defined and demarcated area of operations which has adequate potential to make the institution viable.

Delay in completion of NALCO project

1003. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 529 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th July, 1984 and state:

(a) whether the revised cost of the National Aluminium Company project has been finalised; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) by when the production will start?

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

(a) The revised cost estimates submitted by National Aluminium Company (NALCO), are under examination of the Government.

(b) The bauxite mine is likely to be commissioned in November, 1985 while the Alumina and the Aluminium Plants in September, 1986 and December, 1986 respectively.

Import of Steel

1004. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed import of steel during the current financial year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to overcome the shortage of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (c) Import of steel is a normal feature and regulated through the Import policy. Imports are resorted to where justified on account of inadequate domestic availability of definite grades, specifications and sizes.

Efforts are made to maximise domestic production through developmental efforts and higher utilisation of existing capacities by proper maintenance and inputs of the desired quality.

As a long-term measure output of steel in the country is likely to increase as a result of technological upgradation of existing plants and creation of fresh capacities.

Substantial fall in demand for NTC products

1005. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "substantial fall in demand for NTC products" which appeared in the *Statesman* Calcutta edition of the 13th February, 1985;

(b) whether it is a fact that the units under the concerned subsidiary have incurred huge loss due to mismanagement and all those units which ought to have completed the modernisation programmes could not do so due to want of proper management and also due to want of payments to contractors and suppliers;

(c) if so, what action Government are taking in the matter; and

(d) what are the details of the units where modernisation programmes are yet to be carried out?

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

(b) to (d) The news item refers to NTC (Eastern region), i.e. NTC (WBAO) Ltd.,