

added that occasions might arise when some drugs bearing particular brand names might not be available, but substitutes were invariably available in such cases.

Import of equipment for new Steel Plant

426. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import equipment for the construc-

tion of new steel plants in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) and (b) Presently, the only new steel plant under construction is the Salem Steel Plant. The details of the Plant and equipment proposed to be met through imports for this plant are given as under:—

Details of plant and equipment	Estimated foreign exchange cost of plant and equipment	Main source of supply
Cold Rolling Mill with connected finishing facilities	Rs. 27.0 crores	Japan, France, West Germany, USA and Austria.

In so far as the new steel projects are concerned, any question of import of equipment would be considered only after the investment decisions for these projects have been taken.

Modernisation of steel plants

427. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to modernise the public sector steel plants;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these plants have not yet reached their rated capacity; and

(d) if so, whether such modernisation would hamper in any way the normal working of these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India entered into agreements with the Soviets for the preparation of programmes for the introduction of technological improvements/innovations at Bhilai and Bokaro Steel Plants so as to secure additional production from the existing facilities at minimal cost. SAIL have similarly commissioned consultants to work out schemes for the modernisation of Durgapur and Rourkela Steel Plants. Dastur and Co. were commissioned earlier by Indian Iron and Steel Company for working out a scheme for modernisation of their plants at Burnpur and Kulti.

Some of the important schemes involving sophisticated or improved technology under execution/consideration are indicated below:—

(i) Experimental coal dust injection in blast furnace at Bhilai;

(ii) Conversion of one 500-tonne Open Hearth Furnace to twin bath furnace;

(iii) Installation of an experimental bottom-blown oxygen converter at Durgapur Steel Plant;

(iv) Modernisation of hot strip mill at Rourkela Steel Plant;

(v) Installation of VOD and VD facilities for production of steel for cold-rolled grain-oriented silicon sheets; and

(vi) Adoption of desulphurisation process for hot metal at Rourkela.

(c) No, Sir. In terms of saleable steel, capacity utilisation at Bhilai Steel Plant had gone up as high as 102.7 per cent in 1976-77 and 96.2 per cent at Rourkela Steel Plant in 1977-78.

(d) It will be ensured that during implementation of the modernisation programme, the normal working of the Steel Plants would not be materially affected.

Import of scraps for mini-steel plants

428. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import scraps to meet the requirements of mini-steel plants; and

(b) if so, from which country; what quantity and the total cost involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) In view of the shortage of indigenous steel melting scrap likely to be faced by the mini steel plants, the Government has taken steps to encourage its import to fill the gap between demand and supply.

(b) The quantity to be imported, the cost and the country from which it should be imported will be decided by the actual users i.e. the electric furnace units.

Purchase of Caribous for use as troop transport planes

429. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have purchased 3 Caribous from a Panamanian company at 3 million US dollars, to be used as troop transport planes;

(b) whether any payment has been made against this price;

(c) whether these planes have been delivered and put into operation; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) to (c) Government have purchased a certain number of Caribou aircraft; they have all been received in India and are in use. It will not be in the public interest to disclose details.

(d) Does not arise.

Offer to Shri J. R. D. Tata to head the integrated steel industry

430. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri J. R. D. Tata was offered to head the entire integrated steel industry of India;

(b) if so, what were the conditions attached to this offer;

(c) whether Shri Tata has accepted the offer; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Adoption of sophisticated technology to improve productivity etc. in steel Plants

431. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state: