

(a) what are the reasons for the non-availability of adequate number of acid tankers with the Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Visakhapatnam;

(b) What is the number of tankers allotted to the Hindustan Zinc Ltd., in November, and December, 1978 and for how many tankers indent has been placed by the Regional Manager (Marketing) for the next quarter; month-wise;

(c) Whether the Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Visakhapatnam, has made any further allocations of acid tankers to the cooperative sector; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure due representation of the co-operative sector in the distribution of Hindustan Zinc Limited products?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Hindustan Zinc Ltd. do not have any tank wagons of their own. They depend on the Railways for the supply of these wagons.

(b) Fourteen sulphuric acid tank wagons were allotted by the Railways to Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Visakhapatnam, in the month of November, 1978. No indent has been placed by Hindustan Zinc Ltd., in December, 1978, due to shut-down of sulphuric acid plant.

Indents are accepted by the Railways for the supply of tank wagons on day-to-day basis, depending on the ability of Hindustan Zinc Ltd. for loading *vis-a-vis* availability of wagons. Therefore, no indent has been placed for the next quarter.

(c) and (d) The only request from cooperative sector for sulphuric acid supply from Visakhapatnam Zinc Smelter was received from Bharat Cooperatives, New Deihi, in March, 1978. The material, however, could not be supplied, as the plant was

closed down. No further request has been made by Bharat Cooperatives or any other cooperative organisation for supply of sulphuric acid from Hindustan Zinc Limited's smelter at Visakhapatnam. However, Bharat Cooperatives are now getting sulphuric acid from Hindustan Zinc Ltd.'s smelter at Debari (Udaipur).

Rise in prices of Steel used for House Construction in Delhi

*478. DR. V. P. DUTT:

SHRIMATI SAROJ KHA-

PARDE:

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD
NANDA:

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

(a) the rate at which steel used in the construction of houses was selling in Delhi in January, 1978;

(b) the monthly increase in its price since January, 1978;

(c) the reasons for such an abnormal increase; and

(d) whether Government are aware that the steep rise in the price of steel has created great difficulty for house builders; if so, what concrete steps Government propose to take to bring down the price of steel for use in the construction of houses in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Normally rounds and tor-steel are used for house building in Delhi. House builders take material from the main producers stockyards as well as from the open market. SAIL stockyard prices and tor-steel are used for house building January, 1978, for the popular sizes used by the house builders are given in the attached Annexure. [See Appendix CVII, Annexure No. 102].

(c) Steel prices had been revised with effect from 5-6-78 mainly for the following reasons:

(i) to cover cost escalations in the production of iron and steel;

(ii) to ensure a fair return to producers;

(iii) to cover increased incidence of freight burden on account of increase in lead distance over a period of time; and

(iv) to find adequate funds for modernisation, rehabilitation and development of the steel industry and to lessen its dependence on budgetary resources.

The price increase is not considered to be abnormal.

(d) In view of the above, Government does not consider that there is a steep rise in prices and as such Government does not consider it necessary to take any concrete steps in this regard.

Exodus of Indians from Iran to India

*479. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a massive exodus of Indians from Iran to India recently;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps have been taken by the Indian Embassy in Tehran to facilitate their exodus; and

(c) if no steps have been taken in this regard so far, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) to (c) According to information available with the Government, about 1750 Indian nationals were assisted by the Indian Embassy in Tehran to leave Iran.

Most of these people were illegal immigrants. Some members of the families of Indians living in Iran have also returned to India, but their exact number is not known. As of now, the situation or the demand does not warrant any action to arrange for the repatriation of Indian nationals. The situation is being closely followed and appropriate action will be initiated if deemed essential.

Allotment of Railway Acid Tankers to the Indian Copper Complex, Ghatsila

*480. SHRIMATI MARGARET

ALVA:

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMO-DARA MENON;

Will the Minister- of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1147 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th December, 1978 and state:

(a) the total number of Railway acid tankers made available to the Indian Copper Complex, Ghatsila, of the Hindustan Copper Ltd., during the last one year; month-wise;

(b) whether the Hindustan Copper Ltd., Ghatsila has been allotted adequate number of acid tanker[^] to meet their entire requirement;

(c) whether the Hindustan Copper Limited has decided to give preference to the cooperative sector for further allocation to the small actual users; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) During the period December, 1977 to December, 1978, 27 Railway Acid Tank Wagons were made available at Indian Copper Complex,