

repute. The matter has been pending. Up till now the Government has not taken any decision, nor has it the courtesy to write to me what it is going to do about this matter. Such suggestions are made in the broad national interest and I think that anybody will share this suggestion. It is not that because I made that suggestion, I should take any credit for it. Everybody would have it. But, Sir, no steps are being taken, nor even the letters are replied to. Commemorative stamps are being issued, and many things are being done now in a narrow partisan and sectarian manner, but these things are not done. I should like to know the reason. The hon. Minister should make the position clear.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The main question is: Do these supplementaries arise out of the question which is in respect of one commemorative stamp? Supposing we raise issues of all the commemorative stamps in the country, do they arise out of the question.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: It does arise.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It does arise.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: With your parliamentary experience if you say that it does arise then I leave it to the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question, Shrimati Saroj Khaparde.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Please refer to the question. It states, "refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 335" which relates to issuing of stamps. People have different ideas on stamps. We would like to know the policy on the issue of stamps. Therefore, Sir, my question is very relevant.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I want to know what the policy of the Gov-

ernment is on the matter of issue of commemorative stamps.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Sir, when you have already announced 'next question', should the hon. Member continue to put his supplementary?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I thought Mr. Viren Shah will give only personal explanation. He is now giving explanation for the Minister also.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Am I not entitled to say as much as you do in this House?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What is there? It seems every Minister of the Janata Government requires to be protected by a bodyguard of businessmen.

*663. (*The Questioner (Shrimati Saroj Khaparde) was absent. For answer vide col. 28 infra.*)

Azad Kashmir Liberation Movement

*664. **SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH:**
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT:†
SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:
SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:
SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA:

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a London-based organisation styled as 'Azad Kashmir Liberation Movement' is reported to have accepted the responsibility for certain acts of violence recently committed against Indians in London; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): (a) and (b) We

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Lakshmi Kumari Chundawat.

have not come across any report about the so-called Jammu-Kashmir National Liberation Front claiming responsibility for any acts of violence committed against Indians in London. However, an anonymous tape recorded message was received by our High Commissioner in London on 8th November, 1977, in which a person claiming to speak on behalf of Kashmiris had threatened his life.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: Is the distinguished Minister for External Affairs out of station?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: He is the Minister of State for External Affairs.

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: Of course, he can reply. But the point is that certain policy matters may arise. It has always been the convention that the Minister in charge of the port-folio is at least present even if any of his colleagues answers the questions. This has been the tradition. Sir, you have been a Member of this House for a very long time. It has always been the tradition that the Minister in charge is present even if one of his colleagues gets up and answers questions, because in the supplementaries, policy matters may arise and it will be very difficult for a Minister who is not in charge of his port-folio to give replies on policy matters.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: The hon. Member is slightly under a misconception. The Minister who replied is a Minister of State in the same Ministry.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Sir, the point is no policy matter is debated during Question Hour. For the hon. ex-Minister's information, no policy matters can be either raised or discussed during Question Hour.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am very happy Mr. Hasan has raised this point. I have seen in this House, when the former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi was sitting here and when questions were put to her, on her behalf some other Minister would

reply. At that time, where had Mr. Hasan gone? Why were you keeping quiet at that time?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN: Sir, Mr. Lakshmanan, as usual, is always the Boy Scout who runs to the burning deck. I do not want to take away that privilege of his. But the Minister concerned was present in the House and it was in his presence that his colleagues replied to questions.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: You are raising the question of procedure. Why were you keeping quiet when Mrs. Indira Gandhi was sitting here and others were replying? Why were you keeping quiet?

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: The Minister should be present, though his colleague can reply.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Why were you keeping quiet when Mrs. Indira Gandhi was not replying earlier in the House?

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN: There is another question, Sir, that is, whether a private Member can usurp the right of the hon. Minister concerned.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri-mati Chundawat.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूंडावत : उप-सभापति जी, मेरा सवाल आज़ाद काश्मीर लिबरेशन मूवमेंट के संबंध में था। मंत्री महोदय जम्मू-काश्मीर के संबंध में बात कह रहे हैं। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता यह क्या मामला है? अगर पहले मंत्री महोदय इन बातों को स्पष्ट कर दें तो फिर उसके बाद मैं सप्लीमेंटरी सवाल पूछ सकती हूँ।

SHRI S. KUNDU: If the hon. lady Member would kindly and patiently listen to the reply given, I hope she would not still labour under any misapprehensions. The question and

the answer are as follows:

Question

"whether Government are aware that a London-based organisation styled as 'Azad Kashmir Liberation Movement' is reported to have accepted the responsibility for certain acts of violence recently committed against Indians in London;"

This is your question. The answer is:

"We have not come across any report about the so-called Jammu and Kashmir National Liberation Front..."

(Interruptions)

Kindly have some patience.

"... claiming responsibility for acts of violence committed against Indians in London."

The question is "Azad Kashmir Liberation Movement" is this supposed to be "Jammu-Kashmir Movement" (Interruptions). In fact, for the benefit of the Members we had framed the answer like this. But if you want to be specific, the answer would be 'no'. We do not have any information about any Azad Kashmir Liberation Movement organising this.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूडावत : श्रीमन्, मंत्री महोदय ने अभी कहा कि एक टेलीग्राम मैसेज मिला है। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि इसके बारे में सरकार क्या स्टेप ले रही है। इसके अलावा दूसरे और कौन-से आर्गनाइजेशन है, जो कि धमकी भरी चिट्ठियाँ हमारे एम्बेसेडर्स और एम्बेसीज के लोगों को लिख रहे हैं और इसके बारे में भी क्या कांक्रिट स्टेप लिये जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI S. KUNDU: There were some individuals. Earlier, some of these protest organisations, some individuals, were functioning to have a so-called "Free Kashmir" a Sovereign Kashmir". And some other groups occasionally write letters. They send some sort of threatening

information. So far as these latest incidents are concerned we have informed the Scotland Yard and the Scotland Yard is investigating into it.

(Interruptions)

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूडावत : मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह पृच्छना चाहती थी और मेरा सवाल यह था कि ऐसे कौन-से आर्गनाइजेशन हैं जो कि धमकी भरे पत्र हमारी एम्बेसीज को लिख रहे हैं। मेरा सवाल केवल लंदन के बारे में नहीं है। मैंने सारी एम्बेसीज का जिक्र किया था। मंत्री महोदय कृपया इस बात का जवाब दें।

SHRI S. KUNDU: This question relates to our High Commissioner's Office in London. If the honourable Member asks about all the embassies, it is difficult to answer. If she wants information about all the embassies...

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Sir, the honourable Minister of Steel is prompting the honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in Oriya. I think he should tell us what it is.

श्री भीष्मनारायण सिंह : उपसभापति जी, मेरा सुझाव यह है कि अगर मंत्री जी पूरी तरह तैयार नहीं हैं तो उनको समय दे दिया जाये। दूसरे दिन इसका उत्तर हो सकता है। इस तरह समय बर्बाद करने से कोई फायदा नहीं।

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN: Sir, the Minister made a reference that the honourable Member was referring to all the embassies. The question is very clear. 'London-based' is here. It relates only to the High Commissioner in London; nowhere else. I want to know whether the Government will be prepared to give an assurance to the House that they will produce....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Madhavan, please take your seat. Now, Mr. Prakash Mehrotra.

श्री प्रकाश महरोत्रा : मान्यवर, जब तक आजाद काश्मीर रहेगा, तब तक इस तरह के वाक्यात होते रहेंगे और टेंशन बना रहेगा। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि आजाद काश्मीर को लिबरेट करने के लिये वे क्या कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHAN-DARI: Sir, it does not arise out of this question.

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA: It is for the Chair to say.

SHRI S. KUNDU: As you can understand, this question does not arise out of this.

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA: Sir, I seek your protection.

मान्यवर, इससे बिलकुल यह प्रश्न उठता है। क्योंकि जब तक आजाद काश्मीर रहेगा, इस तरह के वाक्यात होते रहेंगे। उसको खत्म करने के लिये मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है—उसे आजाद करने के लिये, जिससे कि ये वाक्यात खत्म हो जायें ? यह अराइज करता है।

SHRI S. KUNDU: He has repeated the same question. But I can say this much. So far as we are concerned, we have no information that an organisation styled as Azad Kashmir Liberation Movement is in existence....

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA: That was not my question. My question was very specific. He has not replied to my question....

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHAN-DARI: Sir, are you allowing that question?

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: I do not anticipate to derive any benefit from the Minister. But it is the right of the Members to elicit information from him on very specific points. My question is whether there is any organisation like Azad Kashmir Liberation Movement in London or in England. The Minister has rep-

lied that he has received some information from the Indian High Commissioner's Office that he has received some taped information to that effect. I want to know whether this matter has been inquired into and whether there is any information on this subject. I do not anticipate to get any benefit from the Minister's reply on this very specific point.

SHRI S. KUNDU: Regarding the investigation, as I said, this matter has been referred to the Scotland Yard. They are inquiring into it. So far, they have not been able to identify the person whose voice has been recorded in the tape. That is still in the process of investigation.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: This is a very serious matter.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: I am sorry to observe that the hon. Minister is very badly briefed. The first thing he did was, instead of saying Azad Kashmir Liberation Movement, he referred to Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front. Jammu has never been involved in any such thing. It is only Kashmir that is involved. Secondly, just now he said about Sovereign Kashmir. Nobody has ever made any demand for sovereign Kashmir. Azad Kashmir is part of Pakistan. They think that the Kashmir that is part of India is slave Kashmir. They demand that the Indian part of Kashmir should join their part of Kashmir and I would remind the hon. Minister that Sheikh Abdullah had gone to Pakistan during the period when our former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru died. He was actually negotiating for a sovereign Kashmir with them. They said: Nothing doing. We are Azad Kashmir and we want to liberate the other part. The hon. Minister should not be so misinformed because Azad Kashmir is a concept which is totally different from sovereign Kashmir....

श्री विद्वम्भर नाथ पांडे : श्रीमन्, मुझे सख्त आपत्ति है। हमारी गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया

की पालिसी रही है कि हमने कभी उस हिस्से को जो पाकिस्तान के अधिकार में है आजाद काश्मीर नहीं माना, हमने आज तक उसको आकूपाइड काश्मीर माना, अधिकृत काश्मीर माना। इसलिए इस सदन में हम आजाद काश्मीर के रूप में उस प्रश्न को रखेंगे या जबाब देंगे तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह भारत की नीति के विपरीत है।

श्री उपसभापति : ठीक है, इस का उत्तर आने दीजिए।

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: I was only explaining the nomenclature . . .

SHRI S. KUNDU: I do not know what is the question the hon. Member has asked . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The Minister says it is very difficult to understand the question as it is difficult to answer it. Why not arrange some seminar for educating them?

SHRI S. KUNDU: We all will be benefited by such a seminar, if there is going to be one. What I would appeal to you is this. The hon. Member is harping on a very sensitive point. It is the declared policy of the Government of India that a part of Jammu and Kashmir is still occupied . . .

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: You talk of sovereign Kashmir . . .

SHRI S. KUNDU: No. I have not said. Some people in London have demanded sovereign Kashmir. I did not say that. Do not put things into my mouth. We stand by our principle that the entire Kashmir is part of Indian territory.

Export of Steel

*665. **SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of steel exported since April, 1977; and

(b) what are the details of the subsidy given for the export of steel during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) About 7,76,596 tonnes of steel were exported during April to November, 1977.

(b) Steel exports do not enjoy any cash subsidy at present. Therefore, no cash subsidy was given during April-November, 1977.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: The Report of the Study Team for the pricing of steel, constituted by the Ministry of Steel and Mines, says that our steel export is being done at a loss and this export is very much subsidised from the national exchequer. If that is so, may I ask the honourable Minister how much and to what extent this quantum of export is being subsidised from the national exchequer?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Sir, I have already said that there is no subsidy attracted by steel exports and the Government does not give any subsidy and the steel exports are not made at a loss. It may be the cost price depending on the world market and it may be plus, it may be more than the cost price depending upon the world market. But it is on the overall sale of the surpluses produced by the steel plants. So, there is no loss on the overall sales.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: Sir, the declared policy of the Government is that no export of steel will be done at the cost of our domestic needs. Now, Sir, there is a report that the foundry industries in Calcutta have been suffering for want of supply of high-grade pig iron and this pig iron is not available with any of the stockists appointed by the steel plants in Calcutta. As a result, Sir, many of the employees of these foundries are going to be retrenched.

If that is so, what steps would the Minister like to take?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Sir, the honourable Member has now come to the question of the internal sale of steel. But the main question is about the export of steel. Nevertheless, I would like to answer his question. There has been a certain loss of production of pig iron due to electricity failure, that is, due to power failure, especially in the DVC, resulting in loss of production in Bokaro and Durgapur. So, that shortage is being felt in the market. But we are trying to improve on that and if the power position improves, there will be no shortage of pig iron in the country at all. Another reason for the shortage is our former commitment to export . . .

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN: Why should there be any export at the cost of the domestic needs?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: It is because of the fact that there was a former commitment with the USSR in terms of our treaty to export a certain tonnage of steel. Even if there is some shortage, we cannot stop this export commitment because it is part of our treaty with them. But the major reason for the shortage is power failure in that area, especially in DVC, as I said earlier, and I am doing my best to ensure that this shortage, which is only a temporary shortage, is removed.

SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHAUDHURY: Sir, the honourable Minister has agreed to the suggestion of Mr. Buragohain that there is some shortage and they have to honour the commitment to the USSR and that they have to export a certain amount of steel to the USSR because of our previous commitments. May I know from the honourable Minister whether he is aware of the fact that due to this shortage of steel, steel in the black market fetches a premium of two thousand rupees per tonne? While it is so, I would like to know

how the Minister himself has entered into a deal of export of steel with a US firm? I would like to know how, when the steel products are in short supply in India and they fetch a premium of about two thousand rupees per tonne, he is entering into a deal for the export of steel to a US firm, M/s. Hind Metals... (Interruptions). When the country has got a strong foreign exchange position, how is it that the Government has finalised a deal with a United States firm to export hot-rolled and cold-rolled steel sheets at a price much lower than the cost of production? Sir, this is a press report appearing in today's "New Wave", entitled 'Multi-Crore Steel Fraud', and it has also reproduced the noting by the Minister, dated 1-12-77, and . . .

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: Very serious, Sir.

SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHAUDHURY: Sir, it is alleged in a section of the press that the US firm, the Hind Metal, is a dubious company and the deal is pushed through to serve ends other than commercial. It is also alleged that this would cause a sharp increase in the black market price of steel, which would result in a bonanza of several crores of rupees, a part of which is bound to come to the creators of this shortage. Sir, it is further alleged in this report that there is massive evidence that somebody high-up is behind this export deal and therefore stands to benefit enormously. The export will further widen the gap between domestic supply and demand, and push up the prices in the black market. Even if a part of the black market price comes by the way of the Steel Ministry bosses, they would be richer by crores of rupees. The question is: Who is this clever operator eager to make a fortune, and what are his motives?

Sir, here is a photostat copy of the notings in the file, including one by the Minister himself, dated 1-12-77,

there is another noting by the Secretary of the Steel Ministry and another by the Joint Secretary. The signatures are illegible, Sir . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOU-DHURY: It is only recently that they finalised a deal on the 12th December—with the United States. Who finalised . . .

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: It is very serious.

SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOU-DHURY: There is shortage of steel in this country. Still he says that they have to keep their export commitments. There was no commitment with the United States about these export deals. Why are they taking up this deal? That is what I would like to know.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I have not read this "New Wave" or whatever he is talking about. Can you kindly read out the note which is purported to have been written by me? Otherwise I cannot answer the question . . .

(Interruptions).

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: needs to be discussed in the House . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order, please.

SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOU-DHURY: This is your note:

"What should be our thinking in view of depressed world market? Please discuss."

But this is not the final order . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI N. G. RANGA: Whatever may be the details there, let the Minister say that he has taken note of this and he would study it.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I do not want to study. I know my Ministry.

I am prepared to answer any and all questions whether they are published by the national press or by the yellow Press or whatever press you call it, and . . .

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: You are financing . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I said that whatever you may like to call it, or you call it blue press. So . . .

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: You are financing it.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: The export deal that is mentioned by this paper is to begin, if at all, from April, next year—If at all, from next year. I had, called a meeting of all the Producers, Managers and Sales Managers of all the steel plants of this country very recently. There would be, from the next financial year, a surplus of more than 200,000 tonnes of steel sheets because Bokaro is going in for production. Therefore, planning has to be made from now on to dispose of this surplus steel. For the information of the hon. Member, I would like to tell him that there are only certain categories of sheets which are in short supply. That is why, as a deliberate matter of policy, I stopped all supplies of steel to the dealers, especially these Bombay dealers, Calcutta dealers and other dealers who were making black-market money and started giving only to the consumers through the State Small Scale Industries Corporations. Therefore, a howl is being raised by the dealers and I do not know whether the hon. Member is attached to the dealers or not, but my Ministry is not. (Interruptions). What I would like to say is that whether it be, what you call, the blue press or yellow press, the fact of the matter is that it is the policy of the Government to export surplus steel. The alternative is to cut production and throw thousands of people out of employment. I do not propose to do that. I wish to continue full production of all my plants, keep all the labour employed and export whatever is surplus. It is the

Government's view that there will be large surpluses from the next financial year. Therefore, planning for export has to begin now itself. The whole world market of steel is shrinking. Japan has reduced production of steel from 140 million tonnes to 102 million tonnes. We have to plan for export rather than to have this glut. There was a glut when I took over this Ministry. That has been cleared. I do not want to have another glut in this country.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He should clarify the position. The hon. Minister should not give angry answer when the question is put very calmly. We have also got facts. Is it not a fact that steel is selling at a premium of Rs. 2000/- per ton in our country as a result of artificial scarcity which has been manipulated by some interested parties? Sir, so far as this scarcity is concerned, I am referring to hot-rolled and cold-rolled steel sheets. Now, Sir, Mr. Biju Patnaik will kindly explain. Is it not a fact that on the 30th of November—not the date—a proposal came to the hon. Minister from the Chairman of the Steel Authority of India International for export, the deal having been struck with a firm called Hind Metals in the United States? Immediately, within 24 hours, the hon. Minister sent a note to the Secretary of his Department saying what our thinking should be in view of the world market and asking him to discuss. This was on the 1st of December. The Secretary sent another note immediately by hand to the Joint Secretary asking for his comments and views immediately. That note was sent by hand. Why was it sent in such a hurry by hand? Why was it not sent in the ordinary manner? Is it not a fact that the Adviser to the Ministry raised a whole number of objections to this kind of proposals? Is it not fact that the deal was to have been signed on the 12th of this month? It did not go through at the last minute because the Joint

Secretary was out. In the meantime, things leaked out and the matter has come out in the paper. Will he tell us which is this firm called Hind Metals?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: The Question Hour is going to be over. May I answer this?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Mr. Biju Patnaik, why was there such a hurry when it was meant to be a deal which was to take effect from April? Why was this hurry that things had to be dealt within a matter of minutes?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You send that to him.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Sir, I would like to answer this question because this is calumny of the first order. It is the Government's policy—I reiterate it—to plan exports of the surpluses to be. I am declaring the policy of the Government and whether you agree with me or not is a different matter.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, you should protect us.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I have not finished.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: This is proposed to be sold at a throw-away price.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: If the hon. Member or any other Member of this House can get me a higher price of even one rupee I will cancel this order. There is nothing more than that I can tell you. Therefore, to raise this kind of what I would say outside poppycock is not a thing to be discussed in this House. The policy of the Government is clear. Advance planning must be made. It is not easy to find . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is corrupt policy . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK : I would like Shri Bhupesh Gupta himself examine this file.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: This matter must be discussed in the House.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: You can discuss this matter as much as you like.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is being discussed.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: It is being discussed. You can discuss in the Public Accounts Committee. You can discuss in the Public Undertakings Committee. You can discuss in the Shah Commission, if you like. And I am enunciating the policy of this Government. This Government would continue to export at the best available price. Not only these 50,000 tonnes should be exported but more than 2 lakh tonnes or 3 lakh tonnes or whatever is required so as not to create a glut here and by taking care of the internal market plus ten per cent more than what is required for the internal market. This is the policy of the Government and this will be followed by all the Corporations that the Government runs.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Viren Shah.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The internal consumers are ready to buy all the steel.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: About the internal consumer price that is talked about, as I said earlier only today there is some shortage. In another month's time... (Interruptions)

Please listen to me. In another month's time, when Bokaro gives the supply, there will not only be no shortage but there will be no black-marketing. And I do not know from where they got this price of Rs. 2,000... (Interruptions) There will be no shortage. I can also give a guarantee that on this item, there will be no shortage in another month's time. The glut will begin from next year. That has to be protected.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What is the hurry?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Hurry is to plan. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta would not be here if he had any business sense in his head. It has to be planned six months ahead to be able to sell these things.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Sir, in reply to an earlier supplementary about export commitments to the USSR, the figures were mentioned and I support that our commitments must be honoured. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there are other commitments also for export of pig iron for which all arrangements have been made? And is it a fact that those commitments have not been honoured recently?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: Yes, Sir. They have not been honoured because there is a shortage, and we have managed to get a deferred schedule of delivery.

AN. HON. MEMBER: Shortage!

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: If the hon. Member does not know the difference between pig iron and steel, I cannot help him.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Stopping of sale of steel products by The Hindustan Steel Limited

*663. **SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Steel Ltd. has suddenly stopped the sale of its steel products in Bombay, which has resulted in the rise in price of some steel products;

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

(c) what steps Government have taken to remedy the situation?