

का मिलना जो कि अभी पिछले दिनों अखबारों में छपा है।

श्री सभापति : वह सबको याद है, आप फिर क्यों याद दिलाते हैं ?

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : रक्षा मंत्री जी जवाब देते रहे हैं, इसलिए कह रहा हूँ। क्या इन सब बातों का ध्यान वह देश की रक्षा की दृष्टि से रख रहे हैं कि नहीं क्योंकि चीन द्वारा भी हथियार आ रहे हैं, ईरान के माध्यम से भी आ रहे हैं। कहीं ऐसा न हो कि आपकी सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था वक्त आने पर इनके मुकाबले में कम पड़े। इसका ध्यान आप रखते हैं कि नहीं ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : ये सभी बातें हम ध्यान में रखते हैं।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि शाही जी ने तो हैड-लाइन की ओर ध्यान दिलाया। मैं इसी पर ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच संधि होने वाली है कि नहीं। मैं इसलिए पूछना चाहता हूँ कि हैडिंग तो विभाग से पूछ कर ही दिया गया होगा। जब बड़े युद्ध की बात होती है तो सवाल ऐसा किया जाता है कि पाकिस्तान और चीन एक साथ मुकाबला कर सकते हैं कि नहीं। इसी से मैं जानकारी चाहता हूँ कि चीन और पाकिस्तान के संदर्भ में क्योंकि पाकिस्तान प्रायः अपने वंशानुकूल तैयारी बराबर हिन्दुस्तान के खिलाफ करता रहता है और अगर दोनों मिल कर आक्रमण करें तो उस समय हिन्दुस्तान की तैयारी उसके समक्ष है कि नहीं। और अगर है तो वह अणुबम का किस प्रकार मुकाबला करेगी ?...

श्री जगजीवन राम : यह उसी प्रश्न का पृष्ठपोषण है। बराबर यह जवाब दिया गया है कि अगर हमारे देश को खतरा किन्हीं शक्तियों से होगा तो देश उसका बहादुरी

के साथ मुकाबला करेगा और सख्ती से मुकाबला करेगा।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : शाही जी ने कहा था कि हमें प्रश्नों का जवाब नहीं देते हैं। सुरक्षा की जब बात होती है तो उन्होंने कहा कि उसके हाथ में अणुबम है और प्रेक्ष्य-णास्त्र हैं और चीन के साथ हमारा मुकाबला नहीं हुआ, जो मुकाबला हुआ है उसमें हम मुंह की खाए हैं, ये अणुबम का कोई जवाब नहीं देते हैं।

श्री सभापति : अणुबम का जवाब दे दिया है।

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि चीन और पाकिस्तान का सुरक्षा समझौता हुआ है, उसका क्या आधार है ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : अभी तो यही खबर अखबार में नहीं निकली है कि ऐसी संधि होने की संभावना है। अभी यह नहीं हुआ है कि संधि हुई है कि नहीं। जब होगी तो उसका पता लगायेंगे कि क्या आधार है ?

*242. [The questioner (Shri Suraj Prasad) was absent. For answer, vide col. 32-34 intra]

STEPS TAKEN TO STREAMLINE THE STEEL* DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

*243. SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH
MUSAFIR :

SHRI J. S. TILAK :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH :

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA :

DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the steps taken to streamline the steel distribution system?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES
(SHRI SUBODH CHANDRA HANSDA) :
A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurumukh Singh Musafir.

STATEMENT

1. In order to ensure that the steel produced in the country reaches the actual consumers as far as possible, the distribution procedure was streamlined and made consumer-oriented. Measures were taken to ensure speedy processing of indents and orders. The rolling programmes of the main steel producers are being regulated in accordance with national priorities and urgent requirements. A uniform system of consumer-oriented distribution policy is also being followed by the stockyards of the main producers. To check misuse of steel, the Iron and Steel (Control) Order, 1956 has been amended to provide that the use of steel for any purpose other than that for which it is allotted or applied for will be a violation of that order and as such punishable under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Regional Offices of the Iron and Steel Controller have also been set up to check misuse of steel and, in this, the assistance of the Central Bureau of Investigation is taken, where necessary.

2. Government have also set up a Billet Re-roller Committee to regulate the distribution of billets to the billet re-rollers and to regulate the products re-rolled therefrom. Formerly, while the billets were being supplied to the billet re-rollers at a regulated price, there was no regulation on the price or distribution of the products re-rolled therefrom.

3. The traditional raw material for scrap re-rollers is used rails. These rails were not available due to a Court Injunction. As a result of a Supreme Court decision, about 2,05,000 tonnes of used rails had become available for distribution. A well-regulated policy has been laid down for distribution of these rails and also of the products re-rolled therefrom.

4. The system is also being reviewed at present by a Study Group set up by Government. On receipt of their Report, appropriate action will be taken on such of their recommendation as are accepted.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : It should be read properly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us hear the questioner first.

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : प्रश्न के मुताल्लिक जो स्टेटमेंट मंत्रालय ने दी है इसको मैंने गौर से पढ़ा है। इसके बावजूद यह पूछने की जरूरत है कि मार्केट में स्टील नहीं मिलता, साधारण आदमी को साधारण दामों पर नहीं मिलता। वैसे जिनको जरूरत होती है, उनको मिल भी जाता है, मगर वह ब्लैक मार्केट रेट पर, ज्यादा कीमत पर मिलता है। इसके मुताल्लिक कुछ तजवीज स्टेटमेंट में दी गई है कि इसकी पड़ताल की जाती है। मगर यह आम बात है कि स्टील मिल भी जाता है तो कंट्रोल रेट पर नहीं मिलता है। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आया इस किस्म के कोई केसेज मंत्रालय के नोटिस में आये हैं और वह ऐसे साबित हुए हैं कि किसी को सजा दिलवाने की कोशिश की गई हो? क्या ऐसे केसेज आपके नोटिस में आये?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGA-LAM : Cases of misuse of steel that has been allotted to consumers have been brought to the notice of the Government. Thirty cases have been registered by the CBI during the year 1971 and, I think, 1972. Chargesheets have been filed in ten cases and three cases have been recommended for black-listing. One case could not be processed due to lack of evidence. Thirteen cases are at various stages of investigation. In the remaining three cases, investigation is complete and action is being initiated against the concerned persons.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, second question.

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : इस सवाल के जवाब में कहा गया है कि इस सिस्टम को अच्छी तरह से चलाने के लिए और इसका अच्छी तरह रिव्यू करने के लिए एक स्टडी ग्रुप बनाया भी गया है। इससे महसूस होता है कि मंत्रालय भी यह महसूस करता है कि मौजूदा सिस्टम में कुछ कमी है। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि अमूमन जो स्टडी ग्रुप बनाये जाते हैं, उनका नाम लम्बा हो जाता है। आया इस स्टडी ग्रुप के लिए रिपोर्ट

देने के लिए कोई तारीख मुकर्रर की गई है ताकि इसकी ओर मंत्रालय कुछ जमल कर सके ।

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : The report to the Study Group is expected by the end of March, 1973.

SHRI KRISHNA KANT : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that when a person applies to the Steel Priority Committee for steel, it takes about 9 months to get steel and through the iron steel control, it takes about 12 to 15 months ? This streamlining would have been of some meaning had the steel not been available in black market. Steel is available in black market. It has been rightly assessed that hundreds of crores of rupees are generated every year through black market because of the actual distribution of steel. Especially, the steel produced in the mini plants, whole of the steel, goes in black market. The mini-plants are producing about three to four thousand tonnes of steel every month. In view of this, may I know what is the use of streamlining when regional offices have touts through which you can get the quotas and permits and you can get it in open markets ? May I know what the hon. Minister proposes to do so that this black market creation, this getting of steel through other sources is stopped and that the steel is made available through straight channels ? Even the daily papers quote the black market price of steel. It shows that it is an open black market. In view of this, may I know what the Government proposes to do to solve the problem ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : It is rather difficult to follow what exactly is the information that is wanted by the hon. Member. I can only state that we are conscious of a large number of defects that do exist in the existing system for the distribution of steel, and as the hon. Member mentioned a little earlier, it is as a result of this consciousness that this Committee has been appointed. The hon. Members will, however, bear with me when I say that whenever there is a shortage of any commodity and we institute certain systems of controls, there are

always methods of getting round such a system which are adopted by persons who have the opportunity and the influence to be able to get round the same. We go on trying to stop those avenues by which they get round and they develop new avenues and so it goes on and on. It is a continuous struggle. Ultimately, the only solution is adequate production to meet the demands of the people.

SHRI KRISHNA KANT : Only 30 people have been held up. The steel is available in the black market and if the CBI had been active

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no please. Only one question. Yes, Mr. Sisodia.

SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA : Steel is being distributed to manufacturers at controlled price but there is no control over the end products and, therefore, the consumers are getting the products at a very high price. Keeping in view this fact, I would like to know whether the Government is considering to impose any price control so that the consumers may get products at cheaper and reasonable rates.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : The Government does not consider that it will be possible to impose price control on such a wide range of products which are produced with raw material like steel as such a system will become unwieldy and even more likely even to lead to corruption as we find in the distribution system of steel itself.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA : It is quite amusing to note that the Lok Sabha Secretariat could not be completed because steel was not available. Whatever steel was available is passed on the black market with the result that the cost has doubled. Will the Minister let us know what was the reason for the short supply or diversion of the steel available to other avenues ? If we cannot have steel for our own building what is the good of a Ministry here ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : If the hon. Member would be kind enough to put a separate question about the difficulties the Lok Sabha Secretariat has had in relation to availability of

stee] for construction of their building I will give him the details.

SHRI HIMMAT SINH : If I have understood the Minister correctly he is conscious that blackmarketing occurs and he adopts certain measures to check this but those who indulge in blackmarket practices find out new avenues and the Minister's consciousness is further strengthened about the existence of blackmarketing but may I know from the hon. Minister what punitive measures he proposes to impose which become a real deterrent to the opening of new avenues ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : I can only say that we do keep a very careful watch on the utilisation of steel by those to whom it is allotted and we do our best to try to prevent steel being used for purposes for which it was not intended but as I mentioned earlier any system of control will have to face these difficulties and we have to live with them.

SHRI DHARAM CHAND JAIN : The last but one line of paragraph 2 of the statement says that there was no regulation on the price or distribution of the products re-rolled there from. Is the Government thinking of any price regulation or distribution of the products of the billet re-rollers.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : So far as billet re-rollers are concerned we have made it quite clear in the statement itself that we give the billets to the re-rollers at a regulated price. We pay them an amount for conversion and then so far as distribution is concerned we see to it that it is distributed according to the needs of these to whom it is allotted.

SHRI BANARSI DAS : Is the Minister aware of the fact that new entrepreneurs including self-employed young engineers are not getting their quota directly from the manufacturer and they are getting it at a premium of Rs.500 per tonne ?

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : If the hon. Member is referring to small scale industries, arrangements have been made for the small scale units to get their steel from the Small Scale Industries

Corporation. There has been some complaint that even when they get their steel through the Small Scale Industries Corporation the price they have to pay is higher than J.P.C. prices. But we have now had that examined by a group whose Report has been submitted and I expect very soon to be able to equalise their price.

SHRI BANARSI DAS : Sir, I had drawn his attention to the new entrepreneurs including young engineers.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes; he has noted it.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, may I know from the Minister whether he is aware of the position in regard to small scale industries for which the Government has got all sympathies in words but less sympathy while actually implementing the programme of supply of raw materials ? I informed him in November and I again reminded him in December about the Maharashtra Small Scale Industries organisation which has got the largest quota in the country. It had indented for 4 lakh tonnes in 1972, had been allotted about 44,000 tonnes and actually received only 25,000 tonnes. That means about 5 per cent of its requirements has been supplied but you are saying that adequate arrangements have been made so far as small scale industries are concerned. As pointed out by my colleague, Mr. Krishan Kant it is the rampant blackmarket in the JPC organisation and at the regional level that is throttling the entire distribution programme. So I want a categorical assurance that, instead of appointing committees and getting reports and spending your time and our time, a straight forward method will be found by which the small scale industries will be helped. We were also assured during the previous session that you are going to equalise the prices of imported steel to be supplied to the large scale sector and the small scale sector. As far as I know it has not been done and I want to know what you are going to do about it.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : If the hon. Member would not misunderstand me, I must protest against his allegation about blackmarketing in the Steel Ministry because, to my knowledge nobody in the Steel Ministry, including myself, has indulged in any blackmarketing. If he, however, brings any facts to my notice

of such blackmarketing, including myself, I shall certainly investigate them and take action as is necessary. Officers of the Steel Ministry are not here to defend themselves when allegations of a general character, without any specific facts, are made. I would most earnestly request the hon. Member to remember that when he makes such allegations. Regarding the quantity of steel that has been given to the Maharashtra Small Scale Industries Corporation I am not aware of the details and I can only comment that we do try to do our best. If one takes the total demand for steel that has come to the Joint Plant Committee and the Steel Priority Committee, it would amount to 16 million tonnes a year or four million tonnes a quarter, which would appear to indicate that the demand that is made by different consumers is, let us say slightly inflated in the hope that they will get something near what they really need. So, it is difficult sometimes to say that whatever is the demand that is made by the consumer is exactly what the consumer requires. There is no doubt, however, that on a number of occasions the small-scale industries do not get as much as they would need because we do give priority to major projects of construction whose completion is necessary in the national interest itself. So far as the question of equalisation of prices is concerned, as I have mentioned earlier, Government has received the report of the committee and we will now be in a position to equalise the price in order to supply to small scale units from the Small Scale Industries Corporation at JPC prices.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I would submit to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have put a very long question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : But a very important point has been raised by Mr. Mohan Kumaramangalam.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. You cannot put another question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I am not Putting any question. I am not getting a

straight reply for my question. I may only submit to you how the reply has not come. When he says that some officers are not present here, I do not mean Mr. Mohan Kumaramangalam or any of his officers. The point is when the JPC, when the Steel Allocation Committee and the Regional offices are indulging in blackmarketing, as has been stated in the House, how can the Minister absolve himself from allresponsibility ? It is not a general allegation and I repeat that it is not general allegation. Cases and a hundred items are put up, but the small-scale people are unable to get justice from this Government.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Chairman, I would like to repeat that the allegation is general. If the hon. Member will give me any specific examples of any particular officer either in the Ministry or in the Iron and Steel Controller's office or in the office of the Regional Iron and Steel Controller, who has been responsible in any way for what he calls blackmarketing in steel.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I repeat it...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please. I will not allow it. Mr. Kulkarni, you have to sit down. Let him complete his answer. You cannot put another question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I am not putting.

SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Certainly action will be taken and I would be greatly obliged to the hon. Member if he would give me specific facts on the basis of which action can be taken. But general statements do not help me.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Again, Sir, I want to draw your attention. ..

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Mr. Kulkarni. Please do not take down.

(Shri Kulkarni continued speaking)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have heard you twice.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, I am submitting a relevant point. He wants the complaint.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, this is not debate. No, please.

Re. Starred Question No. 244.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Chaudhury ? Not here ? Then, Shri Dwijendralal Sen Gupta.

SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA : Sir, I would like to have a point clarified. There are four supplementaries (a), (6), (c) and (d). If one of them is not answered, will you count that as a supplementary or a question itself ? I have entered four supplementaries but all of them have not been answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why don't you put your question ?

SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA : Question No. 244.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You hear the reply and then say.

INVITATION CARDS FOR REPUBLIC DAY PARADE

*244. SHRI SUHRID MULLICK
CHOUDHURY : SHRI
DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA
SHRI SANSANKASEKHAR
SNYAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(u) the total number of invitation cards issued for the different sitting enclosures in connection with the Republic Day Parade, 1973 in Delhi ;

(b) what are the criteria for issue of such cards ;

(c) the total number of cards issued in favour of the Ministers and MPs; and

(d) what is the maximum number of cards issued to any one Minister and one M.P.?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Dwijendralal Sen Gupta.

Invitations to witness the Republic Day Parade this year were issued to Union Cabinet Minister?, Ministers of State, Deputy Ministers, Members of

, Supreme Court Judges, Members of Planning Commission, Diplomats, Members of Delhi Metropolitan Council, Delhi Municipal Corporation and New Delhi Municipal Committee, officials figuring in the Warrant of Precedence, etc. As regards civilian officers of the Government of India, invitation cards were issued to those whose maximum of the scale of pay was not less than Rs. 1250 and the actual pay on the 26th January 1973 was not less than Rs. 900 p.m. In the case of Armed Force, all officers down to the rank of Major and equivalent, and 50% of those of the rank of Captain and below, and equivalent, were invited. As regards officers employed in Public Sector Undertakings/Corporations, invitation cards were issued to those whose maximum of pay scale was not less than Rs. 1400 P.m. and actual pay not less than Rs. 1100 p.m. In the case of the officers of the Delhi Administration, invitation cards were issued to all those whose maximum of the pay scale was not less than Rs. 1150 and actual pay not less than Rs. 700 P.m. Invitations were extended also to certain office bearers of the Staff Councils, recognised staff associations and residential welfare associations.

As regards non-officials, the aim was to extend invitation to as many persons as possible from different categories of the population, subject to the limitation of available seats ; preference was normally given to persons visiting Delhi from abroad and from outside Delhi. Invitations were also given en-block to foreign tourists and Press correspondents, including their guests. Invitations to persons permanently residing in Delhi were issued mainly on the basis of lists given by the Delhi Administration. A large number of dignitaries and other distinguished citizens from different walks of life, not covered by the criteria indicated above, approached the Ministers and Members of Parliament for invitation cards. An appreciable number of such people had not seen the Parade in earlier years. In order to satisfy the sentiments of such people, it became necessary for the Ministers and Members of Parli-