

been made for the long-standing backlog of orders from the traders;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for abolishing the reservation of 5 per cent of scarce materials for the old orders which existed in the earlier policy ; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to clear the backlog of orders ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b) It is a fact that according to the revised distribution policy, despatches of different categories of steel will be regulated by the Steel Priority Committee. It will be for the Steel Priority Committee to decide, having regard to the priority demands, what percentage of production should be allotted to the traders.

(c) As indicated in the Government Resolution itself, in according priority of despatch to the orders booked by any individual consumer on the main producers, the Steel Priority Committee shall utilise, to the extent possible such orders as existed on the date of the Resolution and Priority would be accorded to subsequent orders only when the existing orders placed by a consumer for the category are exhausted.

PRICES OF WIRE ROPES

780. SHRI G GOPINATHAN NAIR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether manufacturers of wire ropes in the country have formed a price cartel ; if so, whether this constitutes a "restrictive trade practice" under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act;

(b) whether the Wire Rope Manufacturers Association determines the price at which wire ropes are to be sold ; and

(c) whether it is a fact that wire rope prices have been raised by more than 100 per cent during the last two years and if so, what action Government propose to take to contain the rise in prices of wire ropes and also against the Association for adopting a restrictive trade practice ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) :

(a) to (c) From the rate contract entered into by the DGS&D with 9 wire rope manufacturers for the purchase of wire ropes during the period from 15-5-1968 to 14-5-70 and for the period from 1-7-70 to 30-6-71, it appears that there has been some increase in the price of wire ropes. The items and sizes involved being numerous, the percentage increase varies itemwise. According to the Wire Rope Manufacturers' Association, the overall average increase over 1968 rates was 36.1% and wherever the percentage increase was higher, it was in respect of items where the demand was rather negligible. No specific complaint has been received that the wire rope manufacturers have formed a cartel with a view to artificially increase the prices. This aspect would be looked into.

UNAUTHORISED OCCUPANTS OF LABOUR TENEMENTS IN ROURKELA

317. SHRI G. MURAHARI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the labour tenements in Rourkela are under the occupation of certain private parties who are not authorised to enter labour housing ; and

(b) if so, under what circumstances the non-labour occupants were permitted to occupy these tenements ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and

(b) The labour tenements in Rourkela are being allotted to the lowest categories of workers/employees of the Rourkela Steel Plant according to their entitlement as per their length of service etc. A few units are however, under unauthorised occupation for which eviction action is being taken.

ABOLITION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS IN VARIOUS STATES

468. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have received resolutions from

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Transferred from the 4th August, 1970.

some State "Legislative Assemblies recommending the dissolution of the State Legislative Councils there ;

(b) if so, what are the names of these States; and

(c) whether Government propose to enact legislation to that effect; and

(d) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) West Bengal;

(ii) Punjab ; and

(iii) Bihar

(c) and (d) Legislative Councils of the States of West Bengal and Punjab have already been abolished by Parliamentary legislation. The question of undertaking legislation for the abolition of the Legislative Council of the State of Bihar is under active consideration.

PRODUCTION OF CHEAP PUMPING SETS

597. SHRI ! URAJ PRASAD : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government for the production of cheap pumping sets and diesel engines for irrigation purposes for the benefit of farmers with small holding;

(b) if so, what are the details with regard to their price and capacity of work ; and

(c) whether the said implements are being manufactured in the public sector or in the private sector ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) to (c) The Government is not producing pumping sets and diesel engines in the public sector. There are 30 units in the large-scale sector with a total annual capacity of 1,26,130 numbers for the manufacture of diesel engines. 38 units in this sector with an annual capacity of 2,62,351 numbers

Transferred from the 6th August, 1970.

are producing power driven pumps. There are a few units who are manufacturing both diesel engines as well as pumps. There are also about 319 units manufacturing various types of pumping sets in the small-scale sector with a total annual production of about 4.04 lakh numbers. There are also about 600 small-scale units manufacturing diesel engines up to 5 to 20 HP, besides other products. The major concentration of pump and diesel-engine manufacturing units is in Madras, Gujarat, Punjab, Maharashtra and Haryana. The price for a 3 HP pumping set is about Rs. 2,400 whereas the price for pumping set of 15 HP is about Rs. 6,200.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

MASS ACTION OF UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE TEACHERS IN WEST BENGAL

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Education and Youth Services to the mass action of the university and college teachers in West Bengal to press their demands, and the situation arising therefrom.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES (SHRI BHAKT DARSHAN) : Sir, the Minister is now answering the same Calling Attention notice in the Lok Sabha. If Mr. Bhupesh Gupta and the House agree, we may take it up at 2 P.M.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I have no objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the wish of the House ?

HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI RAJNARAIN (Uttar Pradesh) : At 2-30.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you fixing the time, or we take it up when he comes ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : At 2-30.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHAN-DARI (Rajasthan) : At 2-30.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We may take it up at 2 o'clock immediately after lunch. Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.