

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 19th February, 1968 the 30th
Magha, 1889 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock. MR.
CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*121. [Transferred to the 29th February,
1968-]

STAINLESS STEEL QUOTA

*122. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Will the
Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS"
be pleased to state:

(a) the names of parties to whom
stainless steel, quota has been given
during the last four years in Jammu
and Kashmir, year-wise;

(b) the criterion fixed for issuing the
quotas; and

(c) whether any enquiry has been made in
the proper utilisation of the quota by the
parties, if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND
METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM
SEWAK): (a) to (c) The information is being
collected and will be laid on the Table- of the
House.

شری اے - ایم - تارقی : میں
انٹریبل منسٹر سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں اور
وہ سے منجور امید ہے جیسا کہ انہوں نے
فرمایا ہے -

[19 FEB. 1968] : मैं आनरेबल
मिनिस्टर साहब से यह जानना चाहता
हूँ और वैसे मुझे उम्मीद है जैसा कि
उन्होंने फरमाया है।

Once I put a question relating to the years
1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964. At that time I
was a Member of this House and I raised this
Question. Replies were given to the question
and complete statements were laid on the
Table of this House. My question now is what
action has been taken later on, after laying
those statements on the

tf] Hindi translation.

Table of the House. But I am today getting
the same reply and the- reply is: "The
information is being collected and will be laid
on the Table of the House."

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, a question was also
raised in this House- on 10-8-1967, and after
that we had written to the Directors of
Industries in the State to supply the complete
information. And in spite of our persistent
reminders, when the information did not
reach us, we also wrote to the Chief
Secretary. And we did get certain
information, but that was not complete.
Therefore, we have now asked the Iron and
Steel Controller to collect complete
information and supply it.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: I do not want to put
another supplementary question, but I will
request you, Sir, to tell the hon. Minister to
bring in the information before this House in
this very session, before the 22nd of March.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Mr. Chairman,
Sir, I would like to know from the hon.
Minister whether there is any system by
which to know what is happening in the
States about the quotas released—of the
various materials—from the Centre for
distribution in the States. Or, is a *carte
blanche* given to them to do whatever they
like with the quotas released in their favour?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: Sir, out of the total
imports that we had, out of that 2,000 tonnes,
the quotas were distributed to the respective
"State Governments, and it was for them to
distribute it to the respective industries in the
best possible manner having an eye on the
demand made and the total allocation
available. In this connection I would like to
furnish this information that, out of the 2,000
tonnes which were imported in the year 1963,
only 24 tonnes had gone to Jammu

and Kashmir, and out of those 24 tonnes the parties concerned might have got their share.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, from the hon. Minister . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have put one question.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Yes, Sir, I have put a question, but arising out of the answer given I want to put another.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As an exception.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: I do not want to have an exception, Sir.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : In view of what has been stated and in view of the experience in the States will the Government now evolve a certain procedure, will the Government appoint a committee to probe the actual facts, to assess whether these steel quotas have been properly utilised? It is the experience that the misbehaviour of The manufacturers, particularly the large-scale manufacturers, is evident in their fraudulently importing stainless steel and misusing it and thus making an unauthorised income of lakhs of rupees that way which is not in the interests of the country- May I know from the Government whether they are serious in stopping this fraudulent trade in stainless steel by instituting a certain investigation machinery at the State level and the Central level and finding out whether these stainless steel quotas have been properly utilised?

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY: Sir, on the question of utilisation of this scarce commodity, periodical reports are always being sent from the State Governments to the Central Govern- I ment In addition, wherever there are I cases in which some misuse has been I reported the Central Government has ' the right to utilise the services of the j Special Branch of the Police to make I inquiries and take necessary action j under the Essential Commodities Act.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Please say when you are going to take action in the matter of stainless steel.

(No reply.)

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH : As the hon. Commerce Minister is also here, I would like to know why the customs duty on stainless steel changes every moment. Is it to suit anybody else's convenience, and where does it stand today?

SHRI P. C. SETHI: It is not for this Ministry to decide it.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Sir, to me the reply of the two hon. Ministers seems to contradict each other. While one hon. Minister said that the information is being collected that the States send communications to them information, the Cabinet Minister himself said that periodically the States send communications to them about these quotas. If the communications are sent to the Centre by the State concerned, how is it they don't have the information, or those communications do not relate to the breakup of the quotas that are issued ind arising out of this may I know, Sir, from the hon. Minister if it is a fact that the United Front Ministry in Bihar, which went out of office recently had issued a quota for stainless steel to a Bombay cinema actress in Bihar? Is it a fact?

DR. M. CHANNA REDDY: I am afraid, Sir, there is some misunderstanding. I said that we can insist on periodical reports and we can get them, and if there are some persistent cases of misuse, then the Central Government, under the Essential Commodities Act, has the right to institute an inquiry through the Special Police Establishment. Regarding the particular case of Bihar, if the hon. Member can give me the details we can look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.