

MISUSE OF IMPORT LICENCES

42. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister *of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have warned licences that deterrent action would be taken against them if they resorted to transfer of their import licences to unauthorized persons or the sale of the goods prior to clearance from customs; and

(b) if so, the total number of the cases detected by Government after issuing warning of this nature?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir. A Press Note was issued on the 17th December, 1965, explaining that transfer of licences is an offence under the Import Control Regulations and that deterrent action will be taken against licensees who resort to such transfer or to sale of goods prior to clearance from the Customs.

(b) No specific case of this nature was detected.

EXPANSION OF DURGAPUR STEEL WORKS

43. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of IRON AND STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report by the British Team of Experts regarding the expansion of the Durgapur Steel Works during the Fourth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the report?

THE MINISTER OF IRON AND STEEL (SHRI T. N. SINGH): (a) and (b). No report is expected from any British Team of Experts regarding expansion of the Durgapur Steel Plant during the Fourth Five Year Plan period. A project report for expansion of the Durgapur Steel Plant

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to 3.4 million tonnes has been prepared by the Central Engineering and Design Bureau of Hindustan Steel Limited. Negotiations are being conducted by Hindustan Steel Limited with a consortium of British Steel Works of the U.K. with a view to get the work executed by a single agency. The Consortium had agreed to furnish to Hindustan Steel in January, 1966 a draft "Heads of Agreement" containing terms of execution of the works. This draft has just been received and is under consideration.

THREATENED UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG WORKERS IN WOOLLEN INDUSTRY

44. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

ia) whether Government are aware of the fact that because of acute shortage of imported wool tops, half a dozen woollen mills, composite mills, have decided to receive the production by which about 1000 mill workers have to face unemployment; and

(b) if so, what positive steps Government intends to take in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI M. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) As a result of the shortage of imported wool and consequent reduction of foreign exchange allocation, a number of composite Woollen Mills are reported to have cut down their production and some employees have been retrenched. In order to give relief to Woollen Mills, Government have permitted them to utilise 50 per cent, of their installed capacity for production of fabrics made out of man-made fibre/yarn. The mills are also trying to utilise indigenous wool to a larger extent to improve the raw material supply.