

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It is the international price at which they sell and that is the price at which we buy. It all depends on the varying prices from time to time. But I can say this. We are very grateful that six leading Presidents of Japanese steel mills came to India in the last three weeks on the invitation of my friend, Shri Sanjiva Reddy and myself. We took them round to Kiruburu, Goa and other places and we are building up good relations between the Japanese steel mills and the Indian iron ore producers.

SHRI S. C. DEB: I want to know whether the price of steel products that will be imported from Japan will be profitable in comparison with other countries.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: It is asking the same question the other way round.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the advisability of importing capital goods machinery etc. has been considered instead of importing steel?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Steel, as the House knows, is being imported by us. We are importing more than 600,000 to 800,000 tons of steel. So this is not a special concession or consideration for one country or the other. Over and above that, what the hon. Member has said is also being kept in mind. As a matter of fact our trade with Japan has increased by Rs. 28 crores, the largest rise to any single country, and we do purchase more of machineries from them.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Till recently steel products were available in abundance. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what particular types of steel products are proposed to be imported against the exports of iron ore?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That is what I have been trying to impress. The two things should not be linked together. I say that there is no link

between the two. We are deficit in steel and if my hon. friend has scarce varieties of flat products, I would like to know. Of course there are rolled products in which we are a little better off and that is not being imported at all.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया :

क्या श्रीमान यह बतलायेंगे कि हमारे यहां पर स्टील के लिए जो कच्चा माल होता है वह काफी है और हमारे पास इतना अधिक है कि विदेशों में भी भेज सकते हैं तो ऐसी स्थिति में हम स्टील के मामले में स्वावलम्बी हो सकें इस दृष्टि से हम क्या विशेष प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं और कब तक हम स्वावलम्बी हो सकेंगे ?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : बोकारो प्लांट का हो रहा है, स्टील के और प्लांट होंगे, दुनिया का सब से बड़ा बोकारो प्लांट यहां ही थोड़े दिनों में होने वाला है ।

DISPOSAL OF SUB-STANDARD SHOES BY S.T.C.

*352. **SHRI J. C. CHATTERJI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shoes worth a few million rupees exported to the East European countries through the State Trading Corporation were declared sub-standard;

(b) if so, how those shoes have been disposed of; and

(c) whether the State Trading Corporation incurred any loss in this transaction and if so, the amount of the loss?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI BANUBHAI SHAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

*353. [The questioner (Shrimati Devaki Gopidas) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2283-84 infra].