

the representatives of the different Unions in order to come to proper understanding on this question?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: I think, Madam, the hon. questioner is quite conversant with the support the Das Commission is getting even from the Railway Unions. We have two recognised Unions. The National Federation of Indian Railwaymen has offered it, unstinted support to this Commission. So, what the hon. Member has stated is not correct.

IMPORT OF NON-FERROUS METALS

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया :

क्या श्रीमान्, बतलायेंगे कि जैसा ब्रिटिश काल में इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था थी कि जीवनपयोगी वस्तुएं रेलवे कर्मचारियों को निश्चित दरों पर मिला करती थीं, तो सब लोगों को निश्चित दरों पर जीवनपयोगी वस्तुएं मिल सकें इस बात को दृष्टि में रखते हुए शासन कोई व्यवस्था करने की सोच रहा है क्योंकि आजकल हमारे भावों में घटती बढ़ती होती रहती है और शासन द्वारा जैसा कि अभी बतलाया गया है कि कन्ज्यूमर्स कोम्पारेटिव स्टोर्स खोलने की इजाजत दे दी गई है लेकिन यह तो लिमिटेड क्षेत्र में काम करेंगे ?

श्री राम सुभग सिंह : इस बारे में वित्त मंत्री विभिन्न मंत्रालयों और खासकर श्रम मंत्री जी से परामर्श कर रहे हैं और वह परामर्श जारी है। जहां तक संभव हो सकेगा इस ओर कदम उठाये गये हैं और आगे भी उठाये जायेंगे।

♦532. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made to substitute imported non-ferrous metals by indigenous materials; and

(b) which are the main items where indigenous materials have replaced imported materials?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following are the main items where indigenous aluminium is replacing imported copper and other non-ferrous virgin metals:

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Electrical Conductors and Cables, Electrical equipment and fittings, Utensils and Domestic Hardware.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know, Madam, the value of the annual imports of these non-ferrous metals and how far it has decreased during the last three years?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: Madam, 65,086 tons of copper were imported at a cost of Rs. 2,030 lakhs in 1961-62. Now the imports are going up. Naturally, Madam, we are substituting aluminium in place of copper, wherever possible.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know whether any target has been fixed to be reached by the end of the current Plan for reducing these imports?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: We are making all efforts not only by substitution but also to the extent possible by producing copper.

SHRI M. P. DHARGAVA: May I know from the hon. Minister, when substitutes are being used, why the imports of copper are going up?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: Imports of non-ferrous metals have gone up a little because of increasing consumption. Madam, in spite of our using a few thousand tons of aluminium in place of copper, the import of these metals is going up.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH: What are the difficulties being experienced in the substitution of aluminium with copper?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: For some industrial purposes we cannot substitute. Wherever it is possible,

we are doing it. We will be able to reach the target and meet the demand for aluminium in the coming few years.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: What is the performance of the public sector industries in reducing these imports?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: Madam, we are contemplating setting up one aluminium plant in Maharashtra and the other in Madhya Pradesh. Copper also we are now producing round about 10 thousand tons; we are trying to increase the production.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know if any serious attempt; are being made to produce copper in the country and whether there are any prospects of our being self-sufficient in copper in the near future?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY: Madam, now we are producing only ten thousand tons of copper and efforts are being made to produce more copper in this country, but it will take some time before we can meet all our requirements.

*533. [For answer, vide 'Cols. 3909-10 infra.]

GOVERNMENT PURCHASES

*534. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the total Government purchases made from indigenous and foreign sources in 1963-64;

(b) the details of the items so purchased; and

(c) whether any investigation has recently been made with a view to enlarging purchases from local sources?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Total value of purchases made by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals, New Delhi, India Supply Mission, London/Washington from Indigenous and Imported Sources during 1963-64 are as under: —

	<i>Value in crores of rupees</i>
<i>D.G.S. and D., New Delhi—</i>	
(i) Indigenous	452.68
(ii) Imported	100.36
TOTAL	553.04
<i>I.S.M., London/Washington—</i>	
Imported	207.24
GRAND TOTAL	760.28

(b) Major Groups of items of Government Purchases during 1963-64—

1. Food.
2. Tobacco Products.
3. Textiles.
4. Foot-wear (Other than Rubber).
5. Wood.
6. Paper and Paper Products.
7. Leather and Leather Products (Except foot-wear).
8. Rubber Products.
9. Chemicals and Chemical Products.
10. Non-metallic Minerals Products¹ including Products of Petroleum and Coal.
11. Basic Metal Industries.
12. Metal Products (except Machinery and Transport Equipment).
13. Machinery (except Electrical Machines).
14. Electrical Machines, Appliances and Supplies.
15. Transport Equipment.