

PROCESSING OF IMPORT APPLICATIONS FOR STEEL FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY

*301. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during August-September, 1961, the procedure for processing import applications for steel for small scale industry was stream-lined and the Development Commissioner for Small Scale Industry was authorised to sponsor such applications;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Directors of Industries in various States were allotted quotas of foreign exchange within which they could recommend import licences for small scale industry;

(c) how the schemes has worked in 1961; and

(d) in how many cases the quotas recommended by Directors of Industries were reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI C. SUB-RAMANIAM) : (a) to (d) Since April-September, 1961, bulk foreign exchange is being placed at the disposal of the Development Commissioner, Small-Scale Industries for sponsoring the requirements of steel of small-scale units. The Development Commissioner, S.S.I, distributes this allocation amongst the various State Directors of Industries. The recommendations made by the Directors of Industries are accepted and licensed in full by Licensing Authorities. No cut is made. This scheme has so far worked satisfactorily.

NEW PRIZE BONDS SCHEME

*302. SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee set up by the National Savings Advisory Council has recommended the introduction of a new prize bonds scheme; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision on this and other recommendations made by the Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations made by the Committee have broadly been accepted. The new scheme is expected to be introduced with effect from 1st January, 1963.

PRODUCTION OF STEEL IN PUBLIC SECTOR

*303. SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to reduce the gap between installed capacity and actual production of steel in the public sector; and

(b) the results achieved so far in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES (SHRI C. SUB-RAMANIAM) : (a) and (b) The gap between installed capacity and actual production of steel in the public sector has been due to operational difficulties in the initial stages, particularly at Rourkela. The functioning of the Rourkela Plant has been gone into by a committee of experts from West Germany whose recommendations for bringing the Plant to its installed capacity are being implemented. Bhilai has already achieved its rated capacity and in the other plants production is increasing.

SALARIES OF COLLEGE TEACHERS

*304. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is poor response from State Governments and universities to the proposal for giving matching contributions for