Import duty evasion by foreign steel companies

2046: DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that foreign firms are evading payment of enhanced import duty of 7.5 per cent;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that overseas steel producers are resorting to evade 7.5 per cent import duty by taking advantage of anomaly in the Customs Act and selling their produce in India as Alloy Steel;
 - (d) the details thereof; and
 - (e) the measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir/Madam,

(b) "Nil" in view of (a) above.

- (c) No, Sir/Madam.
- (d) "Nil" in view of (c) above.
- (e) The scope of mis-use has been reduced with the issue of Notification No.45/2012- Customs dated 13-07-2012 whereby the relevant Non-Alloy Flat Steel products and Alloy Flat Steel products will both be assessed to BCD 7.5%. The field formations have also been sensitized to thwart any such attempt to mis-declaration.

Demand to pay parity by Indian Information Service

2047. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for the Department of Expenditure refusal to look into the just demand of pay parity that Indian Information Service Group B had with other services like Revenue, Postal and CSS; and
- (b) whether it is a fact that the pending issue of Group B officers is not given priority in the Finance Ministry inspite of various reminders from I and B Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The proposal for pay parity of Indian Information Service Group 'B' with other Group 'B' officers of Department of Revenue, Posts etc. was duly examined in the Department of Expenditure. However, the same could not be agreed to since Senior Grade IIS Group 'B' Gazetted officers of Indian Information Service were in the pre-revised pay scale of Rs. 6500-10,500/- whereas Group 'B' officers of Department of Revenue and Department of Post were already in the higher pre-revised pay scale of Rs. 7500-12000/- and were granted the normal replacement pay structure of Grade Pay of Rs. 4800/- in Pay Band PB-2 and Rs. 5400/- in PB-2 on non-functional basis after completion of 4 years of regular service in the G.P of Rs. 4800/-, and no parity existed between these posts prior to the 6th CPC. The Grade Pay of Rs. 4800/- in PB-2 and Rs. 5400/- in PB-3 on nonfunctional basis after completion of 4 years of regular service in the Grade pay of Rs. 4800/- to the post of Section Officer in the CSS were granted in accordance with the specific recommendations at Para 3.1.9 of the report of the 6th Central Pay Commission and the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2008.

(b) The reference received from I and B Minister has been duly examined in the Department of Expenditure and suitable reply has been furnished on 16th August, 2012.