

thing going before the people. That is why, that action was taken. Otherwise no problem at all. Question Hour is over. The House is adjourned till 2.00 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Restrictions imposed on domestic Automobile manufacturers

*163. DR. BANDA PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Automobile industry body, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) has stated that vehicle manufacturers are considering production stoppage, if there is no resolution of the issues over restrictions imposed on domestic manufacturers using imported steel;

(b) whether Government has extended the deadline for automobile makers to use Bureau of Indian Standards certified locally produced high grade steel till February, 2019;

(c) whether the automobile manufacturers had sought a year's time, to source high grade steel locally citing inconsistent quality; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government to the plea of SIAM?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT): (a) There are no restrictions imposed on Indian Domestic Automobile Manufactures for importing steel. However, to ensure quality of steel produced/imported in the country, steel grades covered under notified Indian Standards (IS) included in Steel Quality Control Order (QCO) dated 13.08.2018, domestic production/import is allowed from the BIS registered manufacturer only. In other cases *i.e.* where grades not covered under QCO even this regulation does not exist.

Quality Control Orders or Technical Regulations are implemented for the benefit of the public interest or for the protection of human, animal or plant health, safety of the environment, or prevention of unfair trade practices, or national security. Ministry of Steel has implemented Steel Quality Control Order on 53 categories of steel products under Section 16(i) of BIS Act 2016.

(b) Yes Sir, on the request of the industry, the date of enforcement of the QCO has been deferred. On the request of automotive industry, the QCO dated 13th August 2018, that came into effect from 18th December 2018, the grades falling under the standards (IS: 4454 Part-1 : 2001, IS: 4454 Part-2 : 2001, IS: 11169 Part-1 : 1984, IS: 6603 : 2001, IS: 4824 : 2006, IS: 6527 : 1995 and IS: 6528 : 1995) have been exempted on three occasions. The last such relaxation for all the grades falling under 5 Indian Standards, is given below:

Standards Exempted from QCO	Duration of Exemption
IS : 4454 Part-2 : 2001	Exempted for 4 months, Upto 17.08.2019
IS : 11169 Part-1 : 1984	
IS : 6603 : 2001	
IS : 6527 : 1995	
IS : 6528 : 1995	

(c) and (d) Yes, The Automotive Industry had sought one year time; after the stakeholders discussion with the producers and consumers (automotive industry) and after assessing the capabilities in the country, licensed manufacturing in India and abroad, the extension for application of QCO has been given on three occasions as given at point (b) above.

Forest Cover Ratio in urban areas

*164. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of total land under forest cover to the infrastructure such as roads, buildings, bridges, tracks, etc. in major urban areas such as Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata;

(b) whether total land under forest cover is decreasing, if so, the status of forest cover compared to that in the years 2001 and 2019, State-wise;

(c) whether any regulation exists for maintaining a set ratio between the two in urban areas;

(d) if so, whether the given ratio is accurately maintained in urban cities; and

(e) if not, whether Government is planning to make such a regulation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) There is no prescribed ratio of land under vegetative cover to total concrete infrastructure coverage. However, international minimum standard suggested by World Health Organisation (WHO) and adopted by the publications of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is a minimum availability of 9 square meter green open space per city dweller.

As per the study on Urban Greening Guidelines, Town and Country Planning Organization (TCPO), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), 2014, the per capita availability of green space may decline due to increase in urban population. However, it may increase in some cities depending upon area available for future urbanization and