

- intensification of blast furnaces;
- replacement of open hearth furnaces by oxygen steel making converters;
- large scale adoption of continuous casting;
- modernisation of rolling mill;
- introduction of computer control system in all the shops;
- introduction of waste energy recovery processes like coke dry quenching, heat recovery systems in sinter plant, reheating furnaces, power generation using blast furnaces top gas pressure.

Relief to Families of Workers Killed in Accidents in Coal Mines Under CIL

5077. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details regarding the compensation, provident fund, gratuity, life cover schemes paid to each of the families of workers who were killed in accidents in coal mines under the Coal India Limited during the last 2 years; and

(b) whether Government have taken some steps for the speedy payment to the families of the victims ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delegation of Indian Businessmen and Entrepreneurs to Visit Expo-85 Organised by Japan

5078. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to send a delegation of Indian businessmen and entrepreneurs to visit Expo-85 organised by Japan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). No proposal for

sending a delegation of Indian businessmen and entrepreneurs to visit Expo-85 (organised by Japan) has been received by the Government yet.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Banks for Uplift of Weavers in Barabanki, U. P.

5079. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places in the country where Government have set up banks so far exclusively for the uplift of weavers, small entrepreneurs and minorities;

(b) the number of banks Government propose to set up in district Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh separately for the uplift of weavers, minorities and small entrepreneurs and for providing assistance for export purpose;

(c) the names of the places where these banks will be set up; and

(d) if these are not proposed to be set up, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). Government have not set up any bank exclusively for the weavers, small entrepreneurs and minorities. The advances given to small entrepreneurs are included in priority sector and all nationalised banks were given a target to lend at least 40 per cent of total bank credit to priority sector by the end of March '85. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has been sanctioning credit limits to State Cooperative Banks on behalf of Central Cooperative Banks for financing the production and marketing activities of primary weavers' societies.

[*English*]

Customs Clearance Procedure

5080. SHRIMATI N. P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether orders have been issued to customs for 100 per cent check on passengers going through green and other channels at airports, in case of those travelling to Far East and back; and

(b) how do these orders reconcile with Government's claim that the procedure for customs clearance has been simplified and causes no delay or harassment to the travellers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). No such orders have been issued. In fact, majority of passengers 'Walk Through' the Green Channel and those opting for the Red Channel are cleared on the basis of their oral declarations. However, random checking of passengers on a selective basis is being done in both the Green Channel and the Red Channel. In addition, to prevent abuse of the facility, a few flights are occasionally subjected to 100% examination. Since the examination is done on a selective basis only to prevent abuse, it cannot be said to be contrary to the simplification and facilitation measures adopted to accelerate the clearance of passengers.

Central Excise Duty on Glassware Industry

5081. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the glassware industry in the country under the Central Excise and Salt Act, is subject to a very heavy rate of Central Excise in the automatic and semi-automatic sectors, ranging from 35 per cent to 5 per cent depending upon the items produced and also 5 per cent special excise duty;

(b) whether this also applies to U. P. Glass Manufacturers' Syndicate; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The basic effective rates of excise duty on glass and glassware, other than flat glass, laboratory glassware, glass shells, glass globes and chimneys for lamps and lanterns, laminated glass and toughened glass, is 15% ad-valorem applicable on other glass and glassware produced by manually operated press by manufacturers having pot furnaces and not using power in relation to such manufacture. The rate of duty of 20% ad-valorem is applicable to glassware (except on tableware

and articles of decoration) produced by mouth blown process and glassware produced by manually operated press by manufacturers having tank furnaces. The duty is 25% ad-valorem on glassware including tableware produced by semi-automatic process, and tableware and articles of decoration produced by mouth blown process. Certain products covered by 'other glass and glassware' bear a duty of 35% ad-valorem. Laboratory glassware, glass bangles and glass beads, unfinished glass inners, broken glass, and glass ampoules and glass vials for injectables, attract nil rate of duty. An effective duty of 5% ad-valorem is leviable on glass chimneys for lamps and lanterns, Flat glass attract specific rates of duty. A special excise duty of 5% of the basic excise duty is additionally leviable on all the above items.

The general duty incidence on glassware is not regarded as too high particularly when it is viewed that there are many excisable commodities which bear similar or even higher duty incidence. Moreover, in the case of many excisable commodities, a substantial duty burden is also borne at the input/intermediate stage in addition to duty leviable on the finished products, which is, however, not so in the case of glass and glassware.

(b) and (c). The rate of excise duty is uniformly applicable to all manufacturers and the duty rate will depend on the nature of the products and the process adopted by the manufacturers of such glassware. There is no special rate prescribed for manufacturers belonging to U. P. Glass Manufacturers Syndicate.

Customs Duty on Import of Mercedes-240

5082. SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Mercedes-240 imported in the country and the details of persons who imported these vehicles;

(b) the details of the invoice value/cost of these vehicles and the amount of custom duty, etc. recovered in each case;

(c) whether Custom Authorities have released these vehicles to those persons also who had pleaded that they had lost their invoices; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard ?