

Rise in Prices of all Categories of iron and Steel Produced by intergrated Steel Plants

230. PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of all categories of iron and steel produced by integrated steel plants have been raised recently ;

(b) whether this steep rise in prices has been decided by the Joint Plant Committee ;

(c) whether the interests of small and medium scale engineering units in the country were taken into consideration while increasing the rise in prices ;

(d) whether the industry has raised a protest against this steep rise ; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to meet the demand of the small and medium scale engineering units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. The Joint Plant Committee of the main producers raised the prices of iron and steel on an average by 15% effective from the midnight of February 20/21, 1985.

(c) The interests of the steel consumers and producers were taken into consideration.

(d) and (e) Some of the users protested against the price increase. It is expected that the impact of this price increase will only be about 0.4% on the wholesale price index. Reuquirements of the engineering industry will be met through domestic production and imports.

Interim Reliff and D.A .to Central Government Employees

231. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY :

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government propose to

give any interim relief to the employees before the Pay Commission submits its recommendations;

(b) whether Government have decided not to give any instalment of Dearness Allowance before the Pay Commission submits its recommendations ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANRDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) The terms of reference of the Pay Commission have been recently amended to enable it to consider the demand of the Staff side for another instalment of interim relief pending submission of its final recommendations. Government will consider the recommendation of the Pay Commission in regard to interim relief as and when received.

(b) The Government have not taken any such decision.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Deletion of items from list of Canalised items for Import and Export.

232. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE and Supply be pleased to to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is planing to take out few items from canalised items for import and export ; and

(b) if so, the details of the items and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) :

(a) and (b) The next Import and Export Policy being formulated and is expected to be announced in April, 1985. It is not in the public interest to disclose the details at this stage.

News-Item Captioned - 'Big Fraud in Bank Uncovered'

233. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether his attension has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Big