

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

fraud in bank uncovered' appeared in 'The Times of India' of 12th February, 1985,

(b) if so, details thereof ;

(c) whether similar frauds in banks have been discovered in the past there years, and if so, details thereof and reasons for such frauds continuing ; and

(d) whether Government have any plans for introducing accountability in such operations, and if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) :
(a) : Yes Sir.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that one Shri Ramesh Chandra Saxena opened accounts in different names in January 1985 in seven banks in Nagpur. In February seven drafts of Central Bank of India for amounts ranging from Rs. 38,003 to Rs 48,200 were lodged in the accounts for collection. The aggregate amount of the drafts purported to have been issued on 28th January, 1985, by the Branches of Central Bank of India in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh works out to about Rs. 3 lakhs.

When the collecting Banks in Nagpur lodged the drafts in clearing with Central Bank of India for payment, five branches of Central Bank of India paid the amounts of five drafts to the collecting Banks. However, one branch of Central Bank of India returned the draft for want of advice from the draft issuing branch. Another branch of Central Bank of India, namely, Dharampeth branch, noticed a difference in the specimen signature on record and returned the draft unpaid. When the culprit, posing himself as one Dr. M.M. Saxena, approached the Dharampeth Branch to enquire, inter-alia, about the fate of the draft returned by the Branch, he was handed over to the police and is under police custody. The Central Bank of India also alerted the banks collecting the drafts not to part with the money. The Bank, has filed FIRs with the police.

(c) Frauds by forgery and counterfeit instruments have taken place earlier also. The RBI has, however, reported that statistics of frauds by way of encashment of counterfeit drafts is not separately available with it. The modus operandi adopted has been changing from time to time and covers opening of accounts with false introduction, writing counterfeit drafts forms and forging of signatures of bank officers.

(d) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that it examines the cases of all frauds in banks and deficiencies revealed are brought to the notice of banks. The staff angle in all frauds is also looked into from the reports received from banks and action taken against the staff involved is followed up to ensure adequate punitive action against delinquent staff.

Panic among gulf Indians over tax Rules.

234. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is panic among Gulf Indians over tax rules ;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken to place the picture before them in the right perspective ; and

(c) the likely effect of the explanation offered on the remittances made by Gulf Indians ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (a) and (b) : The Government have taken note of the reports during 13th Feb., 1985 to 15th February, 1985 published in various newspapers in India, Kuwait, Dubai, etc., that the concern about the liability to Estate Duty and the recent realisation that the deposits in Non Resident (External) Accounts are liable to Wealth-tax, had been resulting in withdrawal in a panicky manner, of the deposits made by non-resident Indians in these Accounts. These newspaper reports were also confirmed by the messages received by the Government from Indian Embassies situate in the Middle East and various other Institutions and persons.