

### Raw materials for Small Sector

3033. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to liberalise further the import policy for the small sectors for their raw materials; and

(b) if not, the steps proposed to make raw materials available to the small sectors?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Import policy for 1980-81 already contains adequate provisions to enable small scale industrial units to meet their requirements of imported inputs. There is no proposal at present for any further liberalisation in the import policy in this regard.

### Shortage of Copper

3034. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is acute shortage of copper in the country, and

(b) if so the steps taken to improve the position thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Current demand for copper is being met by both domestic production and import and there is no shortage in the supply of copper in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

### More Essential Items under Public Distribution System

3035. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring more essential items under the Public Distribution System in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) to (c). The distribution of essential commodities covered by the public distribution system is under constant review by the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments and the concerned departments and agencies of the Central Government. If and when found necessary more items considered essential will be brought under public distribution system.

### Modernisation and Expansion of IISCO, Burnpur

3036 SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) what steps are being taken for modernisation and expansion of IISCO (Indian Iron & Steel Company), Burnpur;

(b) whether the steel plant has given any proposal for a Rs. 100 crore Sinter Plant; and

(c) if so, the decision taken on that proposal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. (IISCO) had taken steps to get a feasibility report prepared for modernisation of the Plant. During the study, it was revealed that modernisation of iron making technology of the plant is necessary. As a result of this, certain proposals have been made by the Plant and the Steel Authority of India which are under consideration of the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal is under consideration of the Government.