

steel industry has caused bottlenecks in railway wagon production; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to maximise production of these items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Despite lower production of saleable steel in the main steel plants due to constraints on the availability of essential inputs, 66,800 tonnes of Structural, including Angles and Channels, were supplied in 1979-80 to Railway Workshops and Wagon Builders compared to only 50,000 tonnes in 1978-79. The supply also compares favourably with the commitment of 67,300 tonnes.

Subject to availability of essential inputs like power and coal, it is proposed to substantially increase the production of angles (both equal and unequal) and channels during the year 1980-81, as compared to the previous year.

Closure of Alloy Steel Plants in Durgapur

768. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY. Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge accumulation of stainless steel worth several crores had led to the closure of Alloy Steel Plant in Durgapur; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

मैसर्स नलीकूल प्राइवेट लि., कलकत्ता

769. श्री निहाल सिंह: क्या वित्त मंत्री मैसर्स नलीकूल प्राइवेट लि., हुगली, कलकत्ता पर मारे गये छापे के बारे में

30 मार्च 1979 के अतारंकित प्रश्न संख्या 5518 के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उक्त प्रश्न के भाग (ख) और (ग) में मांगी गई अपेक्षित जानकारी इस बीच एकत्र कर ली गई है और यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और जांच कार्य पूरा करने में क्या कठिनाइयां आ रही हैं; और

(ख) मैसर्स नलीकूल प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, हुगली पर केन्द्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क के रूप में कितनी राशि बकाया है और यह राशि वसूल करने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री मगनभाई बरौट): (क) जांच को पूरा करने में कोई अड़चन नहीं आ रही है। कर निर्धारण वर्ष 1977-78 से सम्बन्धित मामला सम्भारिता आयोग के पास निर्णय के लिये विचारधीन है।

(ख) मैसर्स नलीकूल प्रा. लि. कलकत्ता की तरफ केन्द्रीय उत्पादन शुल्क की कोई रकम बकाया नहीं है।

Imported edible Oils given to West Bengal State

770. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of imported edible oils given to West Bengal State by the Central Government in view of coming festival season;

(b) whether all States have been asked to take delivery from the State Trading Corporation of India;

(c) if so, when it will be available to consumers in the market; and

(d) whether the prices of these imported edible oils will be less than those of other edible oils manufactured in India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) to (d). In the context of the demand

for imported edible oils indicated by West Bengal Government, an allocation of 5,000 tonnes of refined Rapeseed oil and 2,000 tonnes of RBD Palmoil is presently being made every month for West Bengal. This would be continued in the coming festival months also. The imports of edible oils meant for Public Distribution are being made by the State Trading Corporation of India (STC) and thus, the various States which are lifting these oils for public distribution are required to take their deliveries from the STC. The various State Governments have been advised to lift the imported oils allocated to them every month, from the STC for issue to the consumers through the Public Distribution System, and this is a continuous process. Insofar as the issue prices of imported oils sold through the Public Distribution System are concerned, they are fixed at a fair and reasonable level, and are presently less than the prices of edible oils produced indigenously.

Supply of newsprint to Newspapers

771. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Newspapers are not getting the adequate supply of paper (Newsprint) by the State Trading Corporation;

(b) whether any complaint has been received or noticed by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to meet the supply of newsprint to the Newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The STC arranges import of newsprint based on forecast of demand made by Registrar of Newspapers. So far the import has been adequate to meet the demand.

(b) and (c). During 1979, however, there was port congestion at all major Indian ports as a result of which there was a reluctance on the part of shipping lines including National Lines to lift newsprint cargo to India. Even after arrival of vessels at times there were waiting period of 30—40 days. One of the suppliers mill was closed due to strike which lasted 7 months. In view of these facts it is possible that in some cases there may have been delay in arrival of newsprint. However, STC maintains buffer stock to meet such contingencies from which newspapers can lift their requirement within their entitlement.

आल इण्डिया एल्यूमिनियम वर्कर्स फेडरेशन से जापन

772. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री: क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

इण्डिया एल्यूमिनियम वर्कर्स फेडरेशन ने सरकार को जापन दिया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

वाणिज्य तथा इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी): (क) जी हां।

(ख) जापन में निम्नलिखित बातें हैं -

(1) सरकार द्वारा सरकारी तथा गैर-उत्पादकों को ग्रहीत एल्यूमिनियम उत्पादकों को ग्रहीत बिजली-घरों की स्थापना की अनुमति दे दी जाए। नए एल्यूमिनियम कारखानों की योजना बनाते समय ग्रहीत बिजली उत्पादन का प्रावधान किया जाए।

(2) गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र के वर्तमान एल्यूमिनियम कारखानों का राष्ट्रीयकरण कर दिया जाए तथा समूचा एल्यूमिनियम उद्योग सरकारी क्षेत्र में हो। सरकारी