

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) and (b). The talks between the management of the Life Insurance Corporation of India and the representatives of the All India Life Insurance Employees' Association and the All India Insurance Employees' Association which started on the 12th April, 1962 concluded on the 24th July, 1962 without any agreement.

(c) Government do not propose to intervene at this stage.

Printing of "China Today"

1382. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that printing of the Chinese Embassy monthly journal "China Today", has recently been discontinued; and

(b) if so, in what circumstances?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) No. The last issue of this weekly dated the 10th August, 1962 was printed at the Roxy Printing Press, Connaught Place, New Delhi.

(b) Does not arise.

Steel for Small Scale Industries

1383. { Shri U. M. Trivedi:
 { Shri Bade:
 { Shri Kachhavaiya:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) how much indigenous quota of steel (category-wise) has been allotted for Small Scale Industries and Steel Processing Industries during 1960-61 and 1961-62 to various States;

(b) what is the actual supply of the steel material against the quota allotted for the above two years;

(c) whether it is a fact that not even 10 per cent of the material has

so far been actually delivered to the Small Scale Industries against the quotas allotted to them;

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the supply position; and

(e) in view of the growing importance of Small Scale Industries whether Government will arrange to give 'top priority' to the supply of steel raw material to these Small Scale Industries and Steel Processing Industries quotas?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):

(a) to (c). Steel for Small Scale industries has to come either from the Small Scale Industries quota operated by the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) or out of the States' 'pooled' quota, which includes steel for steel processing industries looked after by the State Government. In both these cases a bulk quota is given to the authorities concerned. The Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries distributes the quota to all the States keeping in view the demand.

In the first half year 1960-61 (according to financial year), allocations were limited to plates, sheets and wire. In the second half year 1960-61, plates were also treated as 'relaxed' category and allocations were made only for black plain sheets (thinner than 14 gauge), galvanised plain/corrugated sheets and wire. Indents for relaxed categories are accepted direct from consumers and stockists and are generally planned in full.

Bulk of the orders of the small scale industries are booked with the stockists and statistical information is not available about supplies made to small scale industries quota-holders through Stockists. Similarly, category-wise allotment and despatch figures for small scale industries in

the country are also not available. It is clear, therefore, that a comparison of the allotments made by the Iron and Steel Controller with despatches of steel to various States against State Steel Processing Industries quota and Small Scale Industries quota from the main producers for which alone figures are available, will present an incomplete and misleading picture, since despatches from Stockists for which figures are not available will be excluded. It is, therefore, regretted that the figures asked for cannot be given.

(d) and (e). It is not possible to accord 'top priority' to the entire demand of the Small Scale Industries. However, the following steps have been taken to improve supply position:—

- (i) A quantity equal to 1/3 of the allotment under the Small Scale Industries quota in each half-year is planned and despatched on 'First Priority' basis and the rest are planned on 'Second Priority' basis;
- (ii) To supplement indigenous supply, import of 48,000 tons of steel was arranged through the State Trading Corporation. A further import of 10,000 tons of sheets and 5,000 tons of wire rods is being arranged through the State Trading Corporation for distribution to small scale industrial units exclusively;
- (iii) Separate foreign exchange is allotted every half-year, according to availability, for issue of import licences to small scale units for steel items; and
- (iv) Efforts are also made to release steel from barter and commercial imports to small scale industries against Essentiality Certificate to the extent import licences could not be issued on account of shortage of foreign exchange.

Coal for Lime Industry in Madhya Pradesh

{ Shri U. M. Trivedi:
1384. { Shri Bade:
 { Shri Kachhavaia:

Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Lime Industry in Madhya Pradesh is facing crisis owing to shortage of coal;

(b) if so, whether there is any move to rush coal supplies to this area;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Lime Industry in Madhya Pradesh was so far getting most of its supplies from the Umaria Colliery, which has now closed down for about 3 months; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government of India are not permitting the Lime Industry in Madhya Pradesh to draw its coal supplies from other coal fields—thus leading to forced closure of a number of kilns resulting in large unemployment?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). Reports regarding shortage of coal for the Lime Industry in Madhya Pradesh were received during July, 1962. Special and preferential allotments were arranged to meet the shortage in deserving cases.

(c) Yes.

(d) No. The Lime Industry in M.P. are allowed to draw their coal requirements from other collieries in Madhya Pradesh and some quantities from West Bengal/Bihar fields.

Stainless Steel Quota to States

{ Shri U. M. Trivedi:
1386. { Shri Bade:
 { Shri Kachhavaia:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) how much stainless steel quota for utensil manufacture has been