

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