

perpetuity of life to the government of the country, we have got to take certain measures.

Since we are working under a democratic Constitution, we have the system of political parties. The majority party is in charge of Government, and the minority party or parties is or are in the opposition.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवास)
हाउस में कोरम नहीं है।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरबा : इतने पुराने सदस्य, श्री शर्मा, बोल रहे हों और हाउस में कोरम न हो, हाउस के लिए यह कितनी बुरी बात है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The quorum bell is being rung.....Now, there is quorum. Shri D. C. Sharma may continue his speech.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The majority party forms the Government, and the majority party elects the leader, and the leader is called by the Rashtrapati or the President of the Union to form the government. Therefore, the leader of the majority party or ruling party becomes the Prime Minister and he is the king-pin of the whole administration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the hon. Member want to take some more time?

Shri D. C. Sharma: Yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He may continue his speech on the next day. Now, the hon. Finance Minister will make a statement.

16.57 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: ADJUSTMENTS IN RATES OF EXCISE DUTY ON IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Sir, I beg leave to state for the information of the House that certain technical adjustments in detail have become necessary to the proposals made in the Budget concerning the rates of excise duty on iron and steel products. It has been brought to my notice that the equalisation of duty will adversely affect the economy of hot rolled strips which before the budget enjoyed a differential of Rs. 40 per tonne, but had the same selling price as skelp. Skelp has some natural advantage over strips in tube making and consequently, a somewhat higher price for the former can be justified.

2. I have accordingly decided to reduce the duty on Hot Rolled strip by Rs. 50 per tonne and equate it with that on Hot Rolled sheets. As a consequential change I propose to step up the duty on cold rolled sheets and cold rolled strips and fix a common rate of Rs. 225 per tonne for these. This will mean an increase of Rs. 75 per tonne in the case of cold rolled sheets and Rs. 25 per tonne in the case of cold rolled strips over the effective rates notified. I propose the same rate for cold rolled sheets and strips as their prices are very nearly the same. These increases are well within the ceiling rate of Rs. 360 per metric tonne proposed in the Finance Bill.

3. These changes are being brought into effect from the 6th March, 1965 by notification. They will have little revenue effect.