

Patent Law

820. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to enact a new patent law under which no new patents will be allowed for food articles, drugs and medicines; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). The revision of the entire law relating to Patents is under the active consideration of the Government of India and I expect to bring before Parliament a comprehensive Bill on the subject at an early date. I would request the Hon'ble Member to await this Bill.

Distribution of Iron and Steel

821. Shri Kajrolkar: Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state whether a statement showing the distribution of the quantities of Iron and Steel for each State during 1962-63 will be laid on the Table?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): A statement showing the despatches/supply of indigenous finished steel (including restricted and relaxed categories) and pig iron to the various States in 1962-63 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1535/63.]

Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants

822. Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state the steps taken to look into the causes of the slow-paced progress of Rourkela and Durgapur Steel Plants as compared to Bhilai Steel Plant?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): The hon'ble member is perhaps referring to the progress in achieving the rated production at Rourkela and Durgapur. Both these plants are de-

signed for different product mix and their erection was completed later as compared with Bhilai. Rourkela being a flat product and complex plant has naturally taken more time to attain its rated capacity. Durgapur also produces certain specialized items like Wheels and Axles and would not be comparable with Bhilai. Whatever steps were considered appropriate, were taken, from time to time, in order to expedite the erection and commissioning of these plants. It may be mentioned that at present all the three public sector Steel Plants are by and large running to their rated capacity.

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

INADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF PIG IRON TO UTTAR PRADESH, GUJARAT AND OTHER STATES.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Banerjee....

डा० राम मनोहर लो०िया (फर्रुखाबाद):
अध्यक्ष महोदय, निजी सफाई। निजी सफाई देने के पहले मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि तीन घाने और पंद्रह घाने वाली लड़ाई पर प्रधान मंत्री को कुछ कहना है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य इस तरह से हाउस की बाकायदा कार्यवाही को इन्टरप्ट न करें। अगर वह चाहते हैं कि उस की सफाई हो, तो वह लिख कर भेजें। मैं उन से पूछूंगा।

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The inadequate supplies of pig iron to Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and other States.

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): In my statement of the 1st May, 1963

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

in this House I had explained the position about the supply of foundry grade iron to the foundries. I may as well re-capitulate the position.

Although the demand for foundry grade iron is at present estimated at over 2 million tonnes, the availability is only about 1.1 million tonnes. The main reason for this imbalance between the demand and the availability is that while on one hand the foundry capacity particularly in the small scale sector has rapidly grown during the last two years, the production has remained static. The production envisaged by the end of Third Plan was about 1.5 million tonnes of which about a million tonnes was to come from the integrated steel works and half a million tonnes from the private sector pig iron plants. Except for one or two schemes of which Kalinga's is noteworthy none of the licensed schemes have materialised. While steps are being taken to increase the production of foundry grade iron as early as possible, either through the licensed schemes or by initiating new schemes, it is clear that the availability of 1.1 million tonnes is not likely to increase for another two years or so, unless some imports materialise.

Due to the large increase in the foundry capacity and resultant stepping up of the demand, the producers had accumulated a backlog of orders amounting to about 1.2 million tonnes. This resulted in delay in execution of orders. It was, therefore, decided to introduce a revised scheme of distribution with effect from the 1st April, 1963. According to this scheme separate quotas have been fixed for meeting essential demands like Defence—60,000 tonnes, Railway Sleeper manufacture 300,000 tonnes, execution of orders placed by Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals for various Government Departments—30,000 tonnes etc. In addition 120,000 tonnes have been earmarked for supply to the State List foundries (small scale) and 176,000 tonnes to the Cen-

tral List Foundries (Large Scale). The ceiling of 120,000 tonnes for the States is further distributed among the various States on the basis of their best year's supply in 1960, 1961 and 1962. The annual entitlement of each foundry has been worked out on the basis of the ceiling fixed for the State.

This is the general situation in all the States and is not peculiar to U.P. or Gujarat. All States will get during 1963-64 a fair share of the available supplies of foundry grade iron. In view of the large gap between the availability and the demand, the entitlements of the foundries particularly State List (small scale) are necessarily low in comparison with their assessed capacity. However, substantial quantities of cast iron scrap, over which there is no control, are also used by foundries along with pig iron. As such the foundries should be able to work upto 20 to 30 per cent of their capacity. Besides, foundries which get Government and Railway Sleeper orders would receive suitable allotments for executing these orders and should be able to work upto 60 to 70 per cent of their capacity, if not more.

I am also placing on the table of the House a statement showing the distribution of Foundry Iron Sector-wise and also State-wise for State List Foundries. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1525/63.]

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the pig iron quota for UP has been reduced from two lakhs tons to only 14,000 or 15,000 tons. May I also know whether it is a fact that many industrial units, especially in the small-scale sector, are not working because of this tremendous shortage? What is the correct position?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not have the figures to verify whether UP

was receiving two lakhs tons or not, but I do not think it would be correct. Anyhow, the present quota for the State List foundries is 14,300 tons. I am sure there will be other large foundries which would be receiving pig iron apart from the State List foundries. I do agree that there is some distress, particularly in UP. When I visited Kanpur, representations were made in this connection and I had explained to them the real difficulties involved. We are hoping there might be some improvement when we review the position after the expiry of six months.

Shri Jashvant Mehta (Bhavnagar): When the hon. Minister visited Gujarat, the manufacturer in that area gave a memorandum about the shortage in the supply of pig iron when the Minister assured the manufacturers that Government would review the policy. Since there is need for defence production and some factories are already on the verge of closing down because of the shortage of pig iron, may I know the steps that Government have taken to supply adequate quantities of pig iron to the manufacturers?

Shri C. Subramaniam: As I have already stated in my statement, the situation is not peculiar either to UP or to Gujarat alone. The situation is bad with regard to foundry pig iron throughout the country. We are trying to get some import of pig iron and also review the system of allocation to find out whether we could give a little more to the State List foundries.

12.07 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up the next item—Papers to be laid on the Table.

श्री बागड़ी (हिसार) : अध्यक्ष महोदय,

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य इस तरफ इन्टरेप्ट न कर। अगर वह चाहते हैं, तो लिख कर भेज दें, या मेरे पास आ जायें।

श्री बागड़ी : बहुत अच्छा। वह गाजियाबाद के किसानों के बारे में है।

RUBBER (SECOND AMENDMENT) RULES AND REPORT OF THE TARIFF COMMISSION.

The Minister of Supply in the Ministry of Economic and Defence Co-ordination (Shri Hathi): Sir, on behalf sub-section (3) of section 25 of on the Table:—

(i) a copy of the Rubber (Second Amendment) Rules, 1963 published in Notification No. GSR 1242 dated the 27th July, 1963, under sub-section (3) of section 25 of Rubber Act, 1947. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1522/63.]

(ii) a copy each of the following papers under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951:

- (a) Report (1962) of the Tariff Commission on fair prices of woollen yarn, fabrics and hosiery manufactures.
- (b) Government Resolution No. 17(26)-TEX(D)62 dated the 28th June, 1963.
- (c) Statement explaining the reasons why a copy each of the documents at (a) and (b) above could not be laid on the Table within the period prescribed in the said sub-section.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1523/63.]

MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF HINDUSTAN SALTS LIMITED.

Shri Hathi: Sir, on behalf of Shri Kanungo, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1524/63.]