

Production of Stainless Steel Utensils

*630. SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units producing stainless steel utensils in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total number of licences issued for the import of stainless steel and the total quantity that was imported during 1968-69 and the total cost in terms of foreign exchange;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of permit holders for the import of stainless steel have no plants of their own and sell it in black-market; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to restrict its import and check black-marketing?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) There are 9 units in the large scale sector for the manufacture of Stainless Steel Utensils:—

Haryana	2 units
Rajasthan	1 unit
Maharashtra	4 units
Tamilnadu	1 unit
Kerala	1 unit.

The requisite information relating to units in the small scale sector is not available.

(b) to (d) The quantity and cost of stainless steel imported during 1968-69 is as follows:—

Details.	Quantity in tonnes.	Value in crores of Rs.
Stainless Steel in utensils and other manufactures.	1692	4.56
Stainless Steel Sheets in different thickness & gauges.	6547	4.02
TOTAL	8540	8.58

Rest of the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta

*635. DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the working of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Calcutta during the last three years in relation to grants-in-aid allowed by them;

(b) if so, the nature of irregularities found during the above period with regard to utilisation of grants-in-aid allowed by Government to the Council; and

(c) the nature of action taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) Yes, Sir. Grants-in-aid to the Engineering Export Promotion Council are approved after a thorough assessment of the results of the work done in the preceding year and due scrutiny of the proposed items of work in the current year. The result of the effort of the Council is reflected in the exports of engineering goods which rose from Rs. 31.14 crores during 1966-67 to Rs. 84.97 crores during 1968-69.

(b) and (c). The minor cases of irregularities were brought to our notice—one relating to travel on official work by the Council's foreign officer in Singapore but without prior permission and the other involving double payments through oversight in the foreign office in Dusseldorf. In the first case disciplinary action was taken against the officer who eventually resigned, while in the second case although the amount over-paid was small a serious note was taken by the Council and the amount was refunded and the officer concerned was warned.