

May I know from the Minister whether in view of this downward trend in the international steel price, the Government will encourage the manufacturers and exporters to export prime steel and other steel products so that we take advantage of the fall in prices and sell our goods at the price that is prevalent and our domestic needs can also be met by two or three months hence, thereby we will not have the shortage of goods and thereby we shall save some foreign exchange in that bargain ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : The answer does not speak of today. It says the international market for steel has been very buoyant for the last few months.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : We are asking for the policy of today, whether they are allowing increased exports, not the position six months ago.

SHRI K. C. PANT : If he reads the answer carefully, he would not object to it.

As for the second part, we have to take advantage of the higher prices in the international market but that is always to be subject to the needs of our own economy. Subject to the needs of our own industry, we encourage exports to the extent possible.

SHRI S. R. DAMANI : There is an acute shortage of steel in the country. Production is not up to rated capacity; it is about 65 per cent of it in the public sector steel plants. What efforts have been made or are going to be made to increase internal production of steel ? This year we are going to import steel worth about Rs. 100 crores to meet the demand in the country. In view of this, what is the definite policy for steel export ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : My hon. friend has raised a very fundamental question as to how production in our steel plants has to be increased. We have just had a long debate on steel. We have gone into the various aspects. I agree with him entirely that the maximum effort should be made to it utilise the full capacity and increase production to the full.

As regards the broad export, policy, as I said, subject to the needs of the country, the internal demand for steel, export is encouraged. Export is also an area to which we attach a great deal of importance. In fact, we place it on high priority. But we have to balance the two; if internal demand is unsatisfied, we have to take that into account and regulate exports to that extent.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : In his main reply, the Minister said that some steps will have to be taken to regulate exports now in order to take account of the shortage in the country. What specific steps are going to be taken to regulate exports ? Are they contemplating reduction in exports to certain areas of the world or increase to other parts at the expense of some other customers ? What exactly do they propose to do to regulate exports and to bring down the prices which have gone up very high in the country ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : The broad approach is not related to the countries of export but to the short supply in the country. Here particular attention is paid to items of mass consumption. In respect of those items, we impose ceilings or sometimes we ban further commitments. For instance, from October last year itself the export of wire rods was banned (from 16th Oct. 1969); export of billets was restricted except for past commitments, government to government commitments etc. In respect of bars and rods also, we propose to have a ceiling on allocation of billets for the purpose of export of bars and rods so that more of them will be available in the country. This is an item of common consumption directly related to house-building activity in the country.

टीन की प्लेटों का उत्पादन और खपत

*1263. श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : क्या इस्पात तथा भारी इंजीनियरिंग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में इस समय टीन की प्लेटों की कितनी खपत है और इसका कितना उत्पादन होता है ;

(ख) खाद्य-पदार्थों को डिब्बे में बन्द करने वाले उद्योग में डिब्बों की बढ़ती हुई आवश्यकता को पूरा करने और डिब्बों का उत्पादन करने वाले उद्योगों की प्रगति की गति को बनाये रखने के उद्देश्य से टीन की प्लेटों का उत्पादन करने के लिये क्या कार्यक्रम तैयार किया गया है ; और

(ग) रूरकेला के अतिरिक्त अन्य किन-किन स्थानों में टीन की प्लेटों का निर्माण किया जा रहा है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) The current consumption of tinplates in the country is estimated at 180,000 to 190,000 tonnes a year. This demand is for prime quality tinplates, except about 25,000 tonnes of Open Top Sanitary Can quality and about 20,000 tonnes of tinplates-waste/waste.

(b) and (c). Apart from Rourkela Steel Plant, tinplates are being produced by M/s. Tinplate Company of India, Jamshedpur and M/s. K. R. Steel Union of Bombay. The total production in 1970-71 is expected to be about 1,40,000 to 150,000 tonnes. The shortage is mainly in the category of Open Top Sanitary Can quality and to a smaller extent in prime quality. With the build up of production of the Rourkela Steel Plant this shortage is expected to be met fully.

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : क्या यह सच है कि इस देश में सस्ते फल, सब्जी और सस्ती मजूदारी होते हुए भी, और विदेशों में डिब्बा बन्द फल-सब्जियों की भारी मांग होते हुए भी, हम इसलिए कम्पिट नहीं कर पा रहे हैं कि यहां टिन-प्लेट के दाम बहुत ज्यादा हैं - एक तो आयात करने के कारण और दूसरे, जो टिन-प्लेट यहां बनाई जाती हैं, उन के दाम बहुत ज्यादा हैं ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : फल-सब्जियों के लिए डिब्बों के लिए थोपन टाप सैनिटरी कैन

क्वालिटी की टिन-प्लेट चाहिए। इस का उत्पादन हमारे देश में कम है - करीब करीब नहीं है और अभी इस को बाहर से मंगाना पड़ता है। जहां तक इस प्रकार की टिन-प्लेटों को देश में बनाने का सवाल है, इस के प्रयोग चल रहे हैं और कोशिश हो रही है कि राउरकेला में इन का उत्पादन किया जाये।

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है, अभी इन टिन-प्लेटों को बाहर से मंगाया जा रहा है और यहां बनाने के लिए प्रयोग चल रहे हैं। क्या वह आज सदन को कोई ऐसा आश्वासन दे सकते हैं कि आज से इतने साल के बाद निश्चित रूप से अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय भाव पर देशी उत्पादन का इस प्रकार का टिन-प्लेट उपलब्ध हो सकेगा ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : इस में एक कठिनाई यह है कि इस क्वालिटी में बहुत कम फासफोर्स की आवश्यकता होती है, जब कि हमारे आयरन और में ग्राम तौर पर फासफोर्स ज्यादा है। इस लिए अभी इस और प्रयोग चल रहे हैं कि जो कम फासफोर्स वाले ग्रेज हो, उनसे इस प्रकार के टिन-प्लेट बनायें। जैसा कि मैं ने कहा है, अभी इस के प्रयोग चल रहे हैं। इस लिए मैं अभी कोई आश्वासन देने की स्थिति में नहीं हूँ।

श्री शिवचंडिका प्रसाद : क्या यह बात सही है कि टिन-प्लेट कम्पनी, जमशेदपुर, को टिन-प्लेट बनाने के लिए कच्चा माल प्राप्त नहीं हो रहा है और इस कारण कम्पनी ने कुछ दिन पहले कारखाने में काम के घंटों में कटौती की थी और आज भी कटौती करने की सोच रही है ; अगर हां, तो क्या सरकार उस कम्पनी को उचित रा मॅटीरियल जल्द से जल्द दिलवाने की व्यवस्था करायेंगी, ताकि उस का उत्पादन बढ़ सके और मजूदर बेकार न हो पायें ?

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र पन्त : मेरे पास जो आंकड़े हैं, उन के अनुसार यह अनुमान है कि टिन-प्लेट कम्पनी आफ इंडिया अगले साल 66,000 टन

टिन-प्लेट बनायेगी। उस ने 1966-67 में 61,000 टन, 1967-68 में 65,000 टन और 1968-69 में 60,000 टन टिन-प्लेट बनाई। इससे प्रकट होता है कि उस को कच्चा माल तो काफी मिल रहा है। उस की क्षमता 75,000 टन है। औरों के मुकाबले में उस की क्षमता का इस्तेमाल ज्यादा हो रहा है। वह टिस्को और इस्को से कच्चा माल लेती है और टिन का आयात बाहर से किया जाता है।

SHRI UMANATH : The prices of tin-plates are very high, exorbitant, affecting the consumers. I understand that the cost of production of tin-plates in Tatas is much less than the cost of production in Rourkela. On the other hand, I understand that the selling price of Tatas is based on the cost of production of Rourkela. The difference is cornered by Tatas and it does not go to the consumers. So, I would like to know from the Government whether they have got any proposal to see that this difference does not go to Tatas, but goes to the consumers as such through a system of pooled prices. Have they any proposal through fixing a pool price or some other step to see that this difference actually goes to the consumer. Secondly, what proposals have they got to reduce the cost of production in Rourkela ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : The confidence with which my hon. friend asks questions makes me doubt the information with me. The price of tin-plate per tonnes of standard 30 gauge in-assorted tin-plates is Rs. 2440 per tonne with effect from 18/19 January 1970. As compared to that the landed cost of tin-plates from UK varies from 2650 to 2848 per tonne and from United States, Rs. 2899-3030 per tonne.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about Japan ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : I do not have the figures. Prices are fixed not on the basis of Rourkela's cost of production as my hon. friend suggested but on the basis of the capital structure of Tin-Plate Company of India and therefore there is no question of any margin which he imagines is there.

SHRI UMANATH : Cost of production in Rourkela ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : That is a continuing process; certainly it should be looked into.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL : Has it come to the notice of the hon. Minister that after the allocation of quotas to different consumers, licences are issued very late ? In between there are so many agencies and prices are affected; it practically goes into the black market. What are the remedies which they are thinking of to solve this problem ? Unnecessarily there is a delay of 2-3 years by the officers in distributing the quota. Will this period be reduced to the minimum ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : I do not think it is correct to say that there is a delay of 2-3 years. I have already given the production figures of Tin Plate Company of India. Production is also picking up in Rourkela, though not as much as we would like it. Only the third company is dependent entirely upon imported plates. There because of foreign exchange restrictions, etc. we cannot give them as much plates etc. as they want. The only way of tackling this question is to find foreign exchange to import plates where there is shortage and also to the extent possible to utilise capacity which has been installed which is enough to take care of the demand except in respect of OTS quality about which I mentioned earlier. For the rest, by and large, the demand is being met. But if we find that demand is not being met, import is allowed. We have in fact allowed fifty per cent import last year seeing that a shortage developed.

SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHANDA : What are the units that are capable of producing Open Top Sanitary Can Quality ? If none of our units are capable of producing them, what are the reasons ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : None of them is at the moment capable of producing this on a commercial scale. Rourkela did produce, as I mentioned earlier some amount of Open Top Can Quality. The main problem is that our ores contain more phosphorous than is permissible in this quality. The

question is this. We are producing steel of certain quality. We separate it and segregate it and use it for the manufacture of this type. At the same time one has to be absolutely certain of the quality because food stuffs will be canned in these tin plates and therefore one has to be absolutely sure that there is no poisoning effect, etc. Therefore, we are carrying out extensive experimentation in the Mysore Food Research Institute to see that these things are settled properly before it is made available for commercial use.

SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM : Will the hon. Minister please tell us why tin plates of OTS quality are allowed to be imported in such large quantities? What are the reasons for not using the indigenous production?

SHRI K. C. PANT : I am not quite clear about the question.

श्री राम चरण : मैं पचास दफा कम से कम खड़ा हो चुका और आपने मुझे मौका नहीं दिया

MR. SPEAKER : You stand a hundred times ..(Interruptions).

श्री राम चरण : बाद में जो खड़े हुए उनको आपने टाइम दे दिया। यह पक्षपात की बात है, मैं इसके विरोध में वाक आउट करता हूँ।

(श्री रामचरण सभा भवन से बाहर चले गये)

SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM : I asked why Government are not utilising the indigenous production capacity for producing tin-plates and why they are importing such a large quantity.

SHRI K. C. PANT : 24673 tonnes were imported in April-September 1969 mostly of the OTS quality. As to why we are not producing it here, I explained in detail.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry the hon. Member did not wait for his turn. He was

intervening when the other Member was asking his question. This importance on the part of such Members is really deplorable.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : I have also been standing. I want to bring to your notice that you cannot sit there and act in a partisan manner. I stood before him but you have allowed him.

MR. SPEAKER : I am looking out. If I were to bring out a list of persons who put supplementaries, you would find that you had been allowed the maximum number.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : I am putting my own questions. I work hard and get my questions. It is very rarely that I get an opportunity to put a supplementary. Today you did not care to look at this side. If you sit there as a representative of the Government, we have no place here. I am sorry.

MR. SPEAKER : You may be sorry, but this is not the way of asking questions.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : What is the way? How long can we wait?

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

SHRI P. G. SEN : Can I put one supplementary question? I have been standing for the last four or five times.

MR. SPEAKER : I allowed the other gentleman. I can not allow all of you.

SHRI P. G. SEN : Those people make *halloh* and you allow them. I must tell you this. Those who make *hellah* get chance.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not get angry... (Interruptions).

SHRI P. G. SEN : Excuse me. You are in the right; we are in wrong.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not lose your temper. I have called the next question.