

been allowed since then, except on account of excise and/or customs levies under the Finance Acts.

Machine Building and Foundry Forge Plants at Ranchi.

*235. { Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Shri R. S. Pandey:
Shri Morarka:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) considering the present stage, what the interval would be between the construction of the Machine Building Plant and the construction of Foundry Forge Plant at Ranchi; and

(b) what measures are being taken to reduce the gap?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):

(a) About two years.

(b) While every endeavour is being made to speed up construction, I am not hopeful that it would be possible to reduce the interval very significantly. The approach therefore, is to adjust the production programme in such a manner as to reduce, the need for import of heavy castings and forgings, to the utmost. It is proposed to advance the manufacture of items of equipment which, though more complicated, requires less of heavy castings and forgings. The possibility of using welded or fabricated components in place of cast and forged components is also being explored.

Price of Penicillin manufactured at Pimpri

*237. { Shri Morarka:
Shri Ravindra Varma:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the selling price to the consumer of penicillin manufactured by Pimpri factory;

(b) how it compares with the imported price; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce the price?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure Nofl 57.]

Reduction in Price of Antimony Metal

*238. **Shri Kolla Venkaiah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any ways and means were discussed with the Star Metal Refinery Ltd. for reducing the selling price of antimony metal by the company which has been raised in August, 1961 from Rs. 3.20 to Rs. 3.45 per Kg.;

(b) whether any source of cheaper imported antimony ore has been suggested; and

(c) whether any interim measures for exploration and exploitation of indigenous antimony ore have been examined and planned?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) As Star Metal Refinery is producing antimony metal out of imported antimony ore, the selling price of their antimony metal bears a relation to the price of imported antimony ore. The price presently charged by them is within the fair price recommended by the Tariff Commission on the basis of an enquiry which has been accepted by the Government.

(b) The possibility of obtaining our requirements of antimony ore from cheaper alternate sources is constantly being explored.

(c) The Geological Survey of India have undertaken an intensive survey of deposits of antimony ore in the country.