

conform to the prices which have been fixed by the Joint Plant Committee. As far as the retail price is concerned, no doubt, there is a slight fluctuation, particularly taking into account the demand at the particular point of time and the supply position. After all, when there is de-control market conditions will have to prevail.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether the Government is aware that since de-control various varieties of steel have disappeared from the market? May I know whether any arrangement has been made by the Government to determine the results of de-control?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think the suggestion of the hon. Member that some varieties have disappeared from the market is correct, because there is no necessity for them to disappear. It is only in a controlled economy that things disappear. Now, even those stocks which were not available before, I am told, are coming to the market.

श्री अचल सिंह : स्टील के सामान की जितनी हिन्दुस्तान की डिमांड है, क्या वह सब पूरी की जा रही है ?

श्री प्र० चं० सेठी : जिन आइटम्स को डिक्ट्रोल किया गया है, उनमें से एम० एस० १२ राउण्ड जैसी आइटम्स को छोड़ कर बाकी सब पूरी हो रही हैं ।

Shri D. C. Sharma: If this partial de-control of some of the steel items has worked very well, will the Government be prepared to de-control all the items of steel manufacture gradually and slowly?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The items were de-controlled on the basis of sufficient availability. Unfortunately, some products are still in short supply. When the supply position improves, de-control of those categories also may be considered.

श्री काशी राम गुप्त : जबसे इस सामान को डिक्ट्रोल किया गया है तब से रिटेलर्स के पास इसको पहुंचाने की जो व्यवस्था थी, उसमें भी कोई परिवर्तन हुआ है ?

श्री प्र० चं० सेठी : जो सामान डिक्ट्रोल हो चुका है वह पहले स्टॉकिस्ट्स जो गवर्नमेंट एप्वाइंट करती थी उन्हीं की मार्फत बिकता था । लेकिन अब वह आवश्यक नहीं रहा ।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it is a fact that the requirements of pig iron of the various States have not been fully met and pig iron is being sold in the black market at very high and exorbitant prices? If so; what steps do the Government contemplate to take to see that the production of pig iron improves in this country?

Shri C. Subramaniam: That is an entirely different question.

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : पहले खुला लोहा बिकता था । उसके बाद एक दम कंट्रोल लगा दिया गया । खुले भाव में और कंट्रोल भाव में इतना ज्यादा फर्क कैसे पड़ जाता है, कंट्रोल रेट क्यों इतना ज्यादा बढ़ा दिया जाता है, इसका क्या कारण है ?

श्री प्र० चं० सेठी : अभी मन्त्री महोदय ने कहा कि जिन चीजों की कीमतें डिक्ट्रोल के बाद बढ़ी हैं व एक्साइज ड्यूटी और फ्रेट एलिमेंट के कारण बढ़ी हैं ।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा: यह तो पहले भी होता था ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब बढ़ाई गई हैं ।

Durgapur Steel Plant

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*178. { **Shri P. R. Chakraverti;**
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Durgapur Steel Plant Authorities have

evolved a scheme for utilising Coke Oven Gas more efficiently with a view to increasing its productivity;

(b) if so, what are the special factors that will reduce coke consumption rate;

(c) whether the plant Authorities have decided to set up a sintering plant in the Steel Works; and

(d) if so, what is the estimated reduction in the cost of production from the operation of the sintering plant?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). Coke oven gas is already being used at Durgapur as fuel in the various furnaces. A new means is however being developed to compress the surplus Coke oven gas and inject it into the blast furnace. It is likely to economise the consumption of coke to some extent.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir, the Sintering Plant is however not expected to reduce much the cost of production but it will help to utilise considerable quantities of iron ore fines and coke breeze.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know whether it is a fact that Durgapur supplied to Bengal 5 million cft. of gas per day while the Oriental Gas Company said that they have got 30 per cent less? What is the result of the enquiry which has been held recently at Bally?

Shri C. Subramaniam: From our steel plants we are not supplying gas to outside agencies.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know the effects of the study of the systems that exist in U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. for their introduction here. How far will they help to increase the efficiency in production?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Coke oven gas is sometimes surplus. That is being wasted now. By this process of compressing it and injecting it into the blast furnace it will be fully utilized

and to that extent coke consumption will go down. Therefore, the economies are bound to improve. As this is in the trial stage we cannot give exact figures.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: When the new methods are adopted, what would be the actual saving?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have already said that this is being tried just now. So, we would not be able to give the exact figures.

Tyre Manufacturing Firms

*179. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that further licence has been given to foreign tyre manufacturing firms in India recently for expansion;

(b) whether this has affected the growth of manufacturing capacity of tyre of the Indian firms; and

(c) if so, what protection is being given to the Indian tyre industries?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) No licences have been issued recently to foreign tyre companies for expansion.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know what specific protection has been given to the Indian firms for manufacturing tyres against competition by British and other foreign firms?

Shri Kanungo: There is no British firm as such. Certain new companies came into the field to manufacture tyres lately, in the last few years. They have been allowed a rebate of 5 per cent in excise duty.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: If there are no British companies, what about the foreign companies like Dunlop and Firestone? Is it a fact that the prices of the tyres manufactured by the Indian firms are fixed in relation to the prices of the other foreign firms and no sub-