

owing to the shortage of tin containers for packing cashew kernels for export; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Rs. 22.74 crores (April-December, 1965).

(b) and (c). No set back in exports has been suffered. Some difficulty with regard to supply of tinplates was brought to the notice of the Government. Necessary arrangements were made for supply of tinplates from alternative indigenous sources. A sum of Rs. 10 lakhs free foreign exchange was also released for import of block tin for tinning indigenous black tin sheets to be utilised entirely for the cashew industry.

Manufacture of Cars and Scooters

***901. Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:**
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:

Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the output of cars and scooters has considerably gone down in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) The overall production of cars and Scooters has not gone down so far.

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

Modernising Coal Mines

***904. Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Sabodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any plan to help the coal industry in modernising the mining operations in the public as well as the private sectors;

(b) the foreign exchange allotted for import of mining equipment and parts during the last five years, Sector-wise; and

(c) the amount being earmarked for 1966-67?

The Minister of Mines and Metals (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) Foreign exchange is released for importing mining equipments against specific demands depending upon the overall foreign exchange position. No plan as such has yet been drawn up to modernise mining operations.

(b) The foreign exchange released during the last five years for the import of mining equipment by the public sector amounts to Rs. 26.87 crores and that by private sector Rs. 13.78 crores.

(c) The requirement is being assessed and the allocation will be made depending upon the availability of foreign exchange.

Supply of Pipes by Hindustan Steel Ltd.

***905. Dr. Ranen Sen:** Will the Minister of Iron and Steel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Steel Ltd. does not accept orders from clients for Electric Resistance Weld Pipes for less than a certain amount or weight and size resulting in difficulties for consultant companies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Hindustan Steel Ltd. does not run piping section throughout the year; and

(c) if so, whether Government have any plan to remedy this state of affairs?

The Minister of Iron and Steel (Shri T. N. Singh): (a) Orders of less than a wagon load are normally not accepted by the plants as they are uneconomic but such orders can be booked through authorised stockists who book small orders when placing indents on the steel plants.