

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: Yes, Sir; books will be published in basic sciences, humanities, medicine, agriculture, veterinary science, engineering and technology.

Shri Nanjappan: May I know whether a list of medical books that would be published as cheap editions has been finalised and if so whether any Indian firm has agreed to print them?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: A list has been prepared, but it is a continuous process. We will have to go revising the list and adding to it.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if it is only with the American firms that we are going to have such negotiations or with other firms also for the publication of such books?

Dr. K. L. Shrimali: As the House is aware, I informed the House some-time back that the Government of the United Kingdom has already initiated action for the production of low-priced books for use in India. The first group of 23 books on scientific, engineering and technological subjects is now under production. These books will be available at one-third of the normal price. Some American books have already gone into production and more books will be published.

डा० गोविन्द दास: ये जो पुस्तकें प्रकाशित हो रही हैं, इनमें पृष्ठ संख्या बराबर बराबर होगी या अलग अलग और इनकी कितनी कितनी कीमत होगी? क्या अंग्रेजी में प्रकाशित होने के बाद इन पुस्तकों का अनुवाद हिन्दी और अन्य प्रादेशिक भाषाओं में भी प्रकाशित किया जाएगा?

डा० का० ला० श्रीवास्ती: इनकी कितना बड़ी है, और कोशिश यह की जा रही है कि एक तिहाई मूल्य में ये पुस्तकें विद्यार्थियों को उपलब्ध हों। जहां तक हिन्दी और दूसरी भाषाओं में अनुवाद का सवाल है, उसका कार्य भी अलग किया जा रहा है।

Iron, Steel and Stainless Steel for Industrial Estate Unit in Andhra Pradesh

*1232. **Shri Osman Ali Khan:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the basis of allotment of iron, steel and stainless steel to the Industrial Estate Unit set up after 1958 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the present allotment policy is the cause for the threat of closure of the bulk of factories in the Industrial Estates; and

(c) what immediate steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). The required information is given in the statement as under:—

STATEMENT

There is no separate basis of allotment of iron and steel and stainless steel specially for the Industrial Estate Unit set up after 1958 in Andhra Pradesh. The basis of allotment of iron and steel for all the States is the same. There is no system of allotment in respect of pig iron and indents from all users are planned in full. Indents in respect of most of the categories of steel are also planned in full. Tinplates, wire and thinner gauge sheets are, however, released on quota certificates. For tool and alloy steel except stainless steel sheets for utensil manufacture, import licences are being issued by the Iron and Steel Controller to actual users to the full extent recommended by the Directors of Industries of various State Governments. While stainless steel for utensil manufacture is being released by the Iron and Steel Controller from imported stocks according to availability, certain categories of steel available from imported stocks are also released by the Iron & Steel Controller to small scale industries on the basis of Essentiality Certi-

ificates issued by the Directors of Industries. Actual user licences have also been issued by the Iron & Steel Controller for importing the scarce categories on the basis of the recommendations of the Directors of Industries.

It is not a fact that the allotment policy in respect of iron and steel is causing a threat of closure of the bulk of factories in the Industrial Estates in Andhra Pradesh or anywhere else.

Shri Osman Ali Khan: The position regarding the allotment of iron and steel explained in the statement to the Industrial estate in Andhra Pradesh is fairly reassuring. But regarding stainless steel, it is mentioned that allotments are made on the basis of availability. May I know what is the availability position, because it is said that a small fraction of the requirements—only 1 per cent—of the industrial estate is being met in this regard?

Sardar Swaran Singh: The hon. Member would no doubt be aware that stainless steel is not yet manufactured in the country. Therefore, it has to be imported. With our limited resources, of foreign exchange, we cannot meet all the requirements of stainless steel. Our general policy is for industrial users, we try to meet their full requirements of stainless steel. By industrial users, I mean those who use it in factories and manufacturing concerns. But where stainless steel is used as a consumer article, as for instance for conversion into utensils, much as we would like to help the units to get all their steel, it is limited by the availability of foreign exchange.

Shri Osman Ali Khan: Stainless steel is being allotted on the 1958 basis. But these units were set up only after 1958 in Andhra Pradesh.

Sardar Swaran Singh: We announce the policy every six months. The current policy is going to be announced. I would request the hon. Mem-

ber to wait for a few days and he will himself see the figures.

Shri Thanu Pillai: It has been announced in today's newspapers.

Shri Mohammed Imam: Sometime back the hon. Minister was pleased to assure that stainless steel plant and also ferro-alloy plant would be started in the country and suitable places would be selected. It was felt at that time that the Bhadravati Iron Works have gone far ahead and they have been trying to produce samples of stainless steel. So, if the manufacturing scheme is entrusted to Mysore Iron and Steel Works, it may not need much foreign exchange and they will be able to start the ferro-alloy plant and the stainless steel plant without much foreign exchange.

Sardar Swaran Singh: It does not arise out of this, but I will attempt to answer it because the hon. Member has raised this question of Bhadravati. So far as stainless steel and special steel of high quality are concerned, we have already taken a decision and I have informed the House that a stainless steel and high quality special steel plant is going to be set up at Durgapur and the work has actually started there. Indian consultants are advising us on setting up that plant. Even after that goes into production, our estimate is that the requirements of the country would be more both in regard to stainless steel and also special steel. Therefore, we are considering proposals from other parties including the Bhadravati Iron and Steel Works for sanctioning capacity for manufacturing special alloy steel. In certain cases we might be inclined to sanction some capacity even for stainless steel.

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know whether in the case of new units in industrial estates and other places the basic period of 1958 will be waived and they will be allotted some quota or percentage to meet their requirements?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That is a matter of detail as to which year's

basic quota should be the basis of allotment. The hon. Member has reminded me that in this morning's newspapers the policy regarding imports has already been announced. I do not know whether it has already been announced or not. Let him look into it and if he is not satisfied, let him come to me. If there is any hardship, I will try to remove it.

Shri R. Narayanasamy: May I know why one distributor in Calcutta demands a premium of 12 annas per lb. without any voucher from one firm of Madras who has got an allotment of nearly 32 tons? I have got a documentary evidence concerning this with me?

Sardar Swaran Singh: If he has done it, he has committed a crime. If the hon. Member gives me the particulars, we will make an investigation.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, Question No. 1234 is important. It may be answered.

Shri Vajpayee: Question 1232A is also important. It may be answered.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Vajpayee.

Purchase of Aircrafts from Russia

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*1232-A. { **Shri Vajpayee:**
Shri Assar:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Subbiah Ambalam:
Shri G. K. Jedhe:
Shri Naldurgkar:
Shri Hem Raj:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently Government have purchased aircrafts from Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when these aircrafts are to come in India;

(d) whether Government have made any arrangement for training of the pilots for these aircrafts; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A number of transport aircraft have been purchased from Russia for the Border Roads Development Board. A few of these are large aircraft; some are smaller—aircraft to be used by the Border Roads Development Board as well as for transport purposes by the Air Force. Some helicopters have also been purchased. Thus far only two of the big transport aircraft have arrived. Some more are expected later.

(d) and (e). Arrangements for training of I.A.F. personnel in the use of this special aircraft have been made both in Russia and in India.

Shri Vajpayee: In reply to a similar question in the Upper House, the Prime Minister was pleased to state that these planes are flying over strategic area and they are being accompanied by Russian pilots. May I know whether before purchasing these planes from Russia, any approaches were made to other friendly countries to sell these planes to India, I mean countries which have not copied the Chinese map recently showing Indian territory as territory of China?

12 hrs.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: These aircrafts were purchased after full enquiry and investigation in various countries when it was found that these were much more suited, considerably cheaper and the mode of payment was much more advantageous to us, because they are paid in trade terms and foreign exchange is not involved. But the main thing was they were most suitable for high altitude flying and they are good transport aircrafts which can carry high loads. Because of these various factors and the very advantageous terms that we got from the Soviet Government, we chose this. All the flying, of course, will be done naturally by the Indian Air Force