

(a) whether the minimum price fixed for lemon grass oil has come into force;

(b) if not, when it is likely to come into force; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for the State Trading Corporation to enter the market and purchase lemon grass oil at the price fixed by Government?

The Minister of International Trade (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The prices of lemon grass oil were fixed with effect from the 1st April, 1963.

(c) The State Trading Corporation entered the market with effect from the 10th July, 1963 and have purchased lemon grass oil at the prices fixed.

Indian Rose Wood

1188. Shri Subodh Hansda: Will the Minister of International Trade be pleased to state:

(a) whether Italy is the principal market for Indian rose wood;

(b) whether importance was given only to export and not for cultivation and production;

(c) whether this has led to depletion of this fine wood in the forests; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to conserve it?

The Minister of International Trade (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, importance is not given only to export of rose wood but also to its cultivation and production. The exploitation and extraction of rose wood trees from forests is done on silvicultural consideration i.e., to improve the promising young growth by removal of old or defective trees. In the space so created, new trees come up by seed and root suckers and thus the proportion of rose wood in the forest is gradually and continually increased.

(c) No, it has not led to the depletion of rosewood. Since only mature

rosewood trees are at present felled, there is no question of depletion of this wood in the forests. On the country, the removal of mature rose wood trees helps younger growth to come.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

Steel Products

1189. Shri Subodh Hansda: Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sale price of some of the items of all the three steel plants in Public Sector are less than 25 per cent. of the cost of production;

(b) if so, the amount of loss suffered by the Hindustan Steel Limited in 1962-63; and

(c) whether there is any indication of improvement in the gap of the cost of production and of sale?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Accounts for the year 1962-63 have not yet been finalised.

(c) Compared to 1962-63, the cost of production in 1963-64 is generally lower.

Duping of Indian Businessmen by a Brazilian Firm

1190. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of International Trade be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Brazilian firm had duped Indian businessmen engaged in the export of jari handloom goods, bangles, handicraft and curios during 1962-63?

The Minister of International Trade (Shri Manubhai Shah): In July this year, our Embassy in Brazil informed us that a Brazilian firm called Casa Indiana had ordered goods from Indian firms, informing them that import licences were either available or unnecessary. As a result goods exported