

(a) the quantity of melting scrap import licensed to arc furnaces, unit-wise, during the years 1977-78 and 1978-79;

(b) the quantity of melting scrap imported, unit-wise, during 1977-78 and 1978-79; and

(c) the quantity of melting scrap, if any, proposed to be licenced during 1980-81?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) No import took place during 1977-78. Unit-wise import during 1978-79 were reported as below:—

Name of Unit	Quantity in tonnes
M/s. Tamilnadu Steel . . .	8119
M/s. Briadvan Alloys . . .	1461
M/s. Bhoruka Steel . . .	4060
M/s. Shimoga Steel . . .	1461
M/s. Canara Steel . . .	1218
M/s. Mukand Iron . . .	11072
M/s. Mukand Iron . . .	12000
M/s. Mahindra Ugine . . .	3250
M/s. Saughvi Steel . . .	1489
M/s. Zenith Special Steels . . .	1485
M/s. Piramal Steel . . .	1485
M/s. D.B. Steel Castings . . .	740
M/s. MP Udyog, Kanpur . . .	700

(c) The quantum of import during 1980-81 will depend upon the registration of demand by the actual users with the canalising agency in keeping with the policy/procedure, and such limited direct imports as are permitted under the policy.

Import of Melting Scrap under O.G.L.

6498. SHRI BANWARI LAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of melting scrap is under O.G.L. but canalised through the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, why are furnaces were issued individual import licences and allowed to do direct import during 1977-78 and 1978-79; and

(c) whether it is proposed to follow the same procedure during the current fiscal year treating melting scrap import as decanalised for all practical purposes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. Import of steel melting scrap of all grades is in the canalised list for import in terms of the policy for 1980-81. The canalising agency, Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd, can, however, import under the Open General Licence.

(b) The electric furnace units in the country had been passing through a difficult time and quite a few of them had closed down. To revive them in the interest of national economy, Government extended certain concessions to them. One of the steps that had to be taken was to supplement the indigenous supply of ferrous melting scrap, which according to reports, was not adequate to sustain a high level of production by the mini-steel plants. To save time and in the hope that the measure will encourage the individual units to import limited quantities of ferrous melting scrap, such *ad hoc* permission was granted to these units for a short period to directly import limited quantities of scrap. This was subsequently supported by the recommendation of the Committee appointed by the Government, on which the indigenous scrap industry was adequately represented, to resort to imports when the production of liquid metal by the mini-steel plants rises beyond 1.7 m.t.

(c) No, Sir. The procedure being followed now does not allow all mini-steel plants to import ferrous melting scrap directly. However, in the light of the recommendation of the Committee mentioned in (b) above, some direct imports are being permitted.