

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Raw Silk Import Opposed" appearing in the 'Financial Express' dated 22 July, 1985;

(b) if so, the reasons for purchasing (importing) such a huge quantity of raw silk by Government;

(c) whether Government are re-considering the question of making this purchase (import); and

(d) if not, the reasons for not taking action on the suggestions of the Central Silk Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (d). Government have taken note of the newsitem under reference. During April-May 1985, Govt. had received a number of representations, mostly from Handloom weavers, regarding abnormal increase in the price of raw silk and its shortage in the market. Following this, the Central Silk Board was asked to examine the position. While admitting the rise in price in its report, the Board felt that the increase was only of temporary nature due to failure of rains in Karnataka and, therefore, it did not recommend direct import of silk. The situation is under further assessment by the Government. No direct import of Silk has however, actually been made so far during the year. The price of silk have since also shown favourable trend and, demand for imported silk has also come down.

[Translation]

Sale of Steel in Black Market

4903. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :
SHRI VISHNU MODI :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that raw materials are supplied at cheap rates to the small scale industries by Government;

(b) if so, whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Farzi Factory Ke Nam Par Lakhon Ke Lohe Ki Black (Black sale of steel worth lakhs of rupees in the name of fake factory)" appearing in the 'Hindustan' of 19 July, 1985;

(c) if so, the number of such cases which have been brought to the notice of Government during the last three years, full details thereof;

(d) whether Government have taken any action on such cases so far;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. Only the State Small Industries Corporations are given rebate by the main producers in the supply of steel so as to enable them to meet their handling expenses in servicing the requirements of the small scale industries under their purview.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Employees Suffering From Diseases in Khetri Copper Project

4904. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN :
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) The number of the employees in Khetri Copper Complex who are suffering from T.B. Silicosis, lung disease;

(b) the number of those who died of these diseases;

(c) the compensation paid to the families of the deceased persons; and

(d) the number of the employees removed from service on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) and (b). 475 cases of employees suffering from T.B. have so far been registered in the Hospital since the inception of Khetri Copper Complex in 1967, of whom 11 have died. No case of Silicosis has been registered. No separate record is maintained in respect of cases of lung disease.

(c) No compensation as such is payable as per the rules of the Company. However, in case of death of a workman on account of T.B., his dependants were paid cash benefits varying from Rs. 20,000 to 61,750 according to the rules of the Company.

(d) Five.

Amount Spent for Rural Development and Welfare in Khetri Copper Project

4905. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the year wise amount sanctioned in the budget and the amount spent under each head till date for rural development and welfare in Khetri Copper Complex;

(b) the significant works undertaken with the said budgetary amount in villages around the said complex; and

(c) whether no work was undertaken except in 1979-80 ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (c). There is no separate provision in the Budget of the Khetri Copper Complex of Hindustan Copper Ltd. for rural development and social welfare. However, certain schemes for Rural Development have been integrated with the general budget of the Complex. Important jobs undertaken by the Complex in this sphere include :

(i) construction of metal Road of about 8 Km. length from Khar-khara to Kolihan;

(ii) construction of metal road from Jodhpura to Khetri Copper Complex;

(iii) improvement of road from Bilwa village to Chandmari/Kolihan;

(iv) provision of road lights on a length of 4 Km. for the benefit of nearby villages; and

(v) provision of drinking water facilities and construction of culverts/causeways for the nearby villages.

Various jobs have been undertaken even after 1979-80 and are continuously being maintained at an approximate cost of Rs. 50,000 per year.

Requirement and supply of power to Khetri Copper Project

4906. SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the total requirement of power for the entire plant, mines, township and other purposes in Khetri Copper Project is 28 megawatt only ;

(b) whether it is a fact that at present 32 megawatt power is being supplied to this project by the Rajasthan State Electricity Board and another 18 Megawatt power can be generated (in emergency) by its D.G. set ; and

(c) what was the necessity of setting up Rs. 30 crore gas turbine and the purpose for which the power generated therefrom will be utilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) The total requirement of power of the Khetri Copper Complex (KCC) of Hindustan Copper Ltd., including the township, is about 38 MW at present and is likely to go up to 47 MW in the near future.