

AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation, the canalising agency for import of stainless steel plates, sheets and strips, received an application for registration of 80 MT of 26 BG stainless steel for August '79 to March '80 from a party in Nagaland for delivery at the rate of 10 MT per month. No other request was received by MMTTC during January '78 to January '80 from Nagaland. Against the request received, the party has been allotted 50 MT of 26 BG stainless steel sheets. However, the party lifted only 9.973 MT out of the October, 1979 allocation. Other allotments have not been honoured by the party. No request for supply of stainless steel from Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur or from imports was received by SAIL from Nagaland during January '78 to January '80.

Import of coking coal from Canada and Australia

483. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA
HALDER:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to import five lakh tonnes of coking coal from Canada and Australia contrary to the views of the experts of the SAIL that imported coal is not upto the desired quality;

(b) details thereof; and

(c) reason for such import despite adverse remarks thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A final decision has yet to be taken by the Government regarding further imports of additional quantity of coking coal. No expert of SAIL has, however, expressed any contrary opinion on the quality of imported coking coal.

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

Raids by anti-Hoarding Cell of Delhi

484. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Police has set up an anti-Hoarding Cell;

(b) whether the Ministry has taken the help of this cell;

(c) if so, how many raids were conducted by this Cell recently and the quantum of hoarded goods recovered;

(d) the steps taken against those found hoarding goods; and

(e) whether Government have considered the desirability of cutting short the present lengthy legal procedure to punish such hoarders quickly and adequately?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). An Anti-Hoarding Cell has been set up by Delhi Police with which the staff of the Food and Supplies Department, Delhi Administration is associated. This Cell functions under the control of the Delhi Administration. Upto 26th February, 1980, 114 raids carried out by this Cell, as a result of which the following quantities of hoarded goods were seized:

1. Sugar & Khandsari	956100
2. Gram	141200 kg
3. Rice	1048675 kg
4. Jawar	200 kg
5. Maize	25600 kg
6. Til	18600 kg
7. Mutter	2100 kg
8. Pulses	25800 kg
9. Wheat & Atta	24400 kg
10. Cement	313350 kg
11. Kerosene Oil	11317 Itrs.
12. HSD Oil	14716.02 Itrs.
13. Edible Oils	30893.500 kg

Besides three tankers, six trucks and one tempo involved in above said cases were also seized.

(d) Cases against the offenders have been registered under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the orders issued thereunder and prosecutions have been launched against them. In all 164 persons have been arrested so far.

(e) Government is at present considering no change in legal procedure. However, all State Governments have been advised to set up new courts or earmark the existing ones to expedite the disposal of cases under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में अन्तर

485. श्री रामलाल राहो : क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक प्रति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इस समय देश के विभिन्न भागों में प्रतिदिन काम में लाई जाने वाली कुछ आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में भारी अन्तर है और अनुचित लाभ कमाने वाले व्यक्ति उनके मूल्यों में पर्याप्त वृद्धि करके लोगों का शोषण कर रहे हैं; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार का विचार एक ही प्रकार की वस्तुओं को समान निर्धारित मूल्य पर उपलब्ध कराने के लिए निर्णय करने के प्रश्न पर विचार करने का है जिससे शोषण और अनुचित लाभ को रोका जा सके ?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक प्रति और इस्पात तथा खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) और (ख)। देश के विभिन्न भागों में रोजमर्रा के उपयोग की विभिन्न आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में अन्तर है, जिसका मुख्य कारण उत्पादों की किस्मों में भिन्नता होना, स्थानीय करों, दुलाई लागत तथा मांग व आपूर्ति की स्थितियों में अन्तर होना है।

चीनी के मामले में देशी मूल्य प्रणाली फिर से लागू करने से यह देश भर में उचित दर की दुकानों के माध्यम से एक समान मूल्य पर बेची जा रही है। उचित दर की दुकानों के माध्यम से वितरण करने के लिए चावल, गेहूँ और आयातित खाद्य तेलों के मामले में भी केन्द्रीय निर्गम मूल्य एक समान हैं, हालाँकि वे उपभोक्ताओं को उन मूल्यों पर बेचे जाते हैं जो अलग-अलग राज्यों में मामूली तौर पर अलग-अलग हो सकते हैं। अधिग्रहणों के मूल्य भी सरकार द्वारा नियंत्रित हैं और स्थानीय करों को

छोड़ कर देश भर में उनके मूल्य एक समान हैं। वहीं सिद्धान्त कमीशन बाट तथा माप मापक (वेकेंज में रखी वस्तुओं) नियम, 1977 के अन्तर्गत आने वाली वस्तुओं पर भी लागू होता है। इसके अलावा, आवश्यक वस्तुओं का उत्पादन बढ़ाने तथा उनके संचालन में सुधार करने के लिए प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं; ताकि देश भर में वे उचित मूल्यों पर उपलब्ध हो सकें। सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत अधिक क्षेत्र, जनसंख्या व वस्तुओं को लाकर इसके कार्यक्षेत्र का विस्तार किया जा रहा है। इस समय सरकार के विचाराधीन ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है, जिसके अनुसार देश भर में उपभोक्ताओं को सभी आवश्यक वस्तुओं पर एक समान मूल्यों पर उपलब्ध की जाये।

Revision of Import Policy

486. SHRI JAI NARAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new Government at the Centre propose to revise the existing import policy of the country; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The import policy is announced for each financial year April to March. The import policy for the next year i.e. April 1980—March 1981 is under formulation. It is not possible to give details of the new import policy at this stage.

Indo-U.S. Joint Business Council

487. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the positive outcome of the meeting of Indo-U.S. Joint Business Council held recently in New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Leader of the U.S. Delegation to the Indo-U.S. Joint Business Council, Mr. Orville L. Freeman, had expressed in the said meeting, the hope that