

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f). Adequate protection has been given to indigenously produced stainless steel by imposing high import duty on stainless steel sheets, and by the mechanism for fixation of release prices for the imported material. Indigenous availability is taken into consideration while deciding on the level of imports. No change in import policy is, therefore, considered necessary at present.

Stoppage of Business of Indian Banks in London

3938 SHRI NARAYAN CHOUREY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian banks in London have been forced to stop business due to strike;

(b) if so, what is the reason of the strike and what is demands of the strikers; and

(c) what is the amount lost due to stoppage of function in these banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) It is not a fact that Indian Banks in London have been forced to stop business due to strike. However, the locally recruited employees of the five banks, viz. State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Central Bank of India, Bank of India and United Commercial Bank had taken unofficial industrial action at 12.00 noon on 11th June, 1980 by stopping work. They however, resumed work next morning.

(b) The work stoppage was resorted to by the staff in support of their demand for an increase in salary by 28 per cent (later reduced to 23 per cent) whereas the banks had offered an increase of 19.5 per cent. An agreement has since been reached between the union and the Joint Negotiating Committee of the Indian Banks in U.K. in terms of which an increase of

21.5 per cent in the salary has been agreed upon w.e.f. 1st April, 1980.

(c) Since the business of the bank had not completely stopped and the stoppage of work had only resulted in some dislocation in the business after 12.00 noon on 11th June, 1980, this question does not arise.

Steep Cut in Allocation for Development of Steel Industry

3939. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a steep cut in allocation for development of steel industry during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the original proposed outlay, the proposed cut and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Availability of Steel to Low and Middle Class House Builders

3940. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of low and middle class house builders are experiencing shortage of steel;

(b) whether a large number of constructions of such houses are at stand still due to non availability of steel;

(c) whether Government machinery for the issue of permits in Delhi has failed to give permits to prospective house (small and middle) builders;

(d) the number of applications pending consideration in Delhi since January, 1980 till date; and