

Supply of Aluminium Ingot by BALCO to Small-Scale Industrialists

4757. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of aluminium ingots meant for fabrication for manufacture of utensils by the small-scale industrialists expected to be allotted to the Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO) for onward supply to these units;

(b) whether it is a fact that during the current year the position has been very critical and the small industries depending on supply by BALCO in Haryana are languishing;

(c) whether one of the causes for short supply for distribution to the small units is due to the major share being given to the J.K.'s nationalised factory near Asansol; if so, the steps being taken to make good the shortage by imports to sustain the small units entirely depending on supply by BALCO; and

(d) the quantity likely to be supplied to these small units already on the list of BALCO in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANB MUKERJEE): (a) There is no control over the distribution of commercial grade aluminium. BALCO distributes the commercial grade aluminium produced by it to actual users generally on the basis of past offtakes.

(b) Owing to fall in production as well as higher proportion of E.C. grade aluminium produced by the Company, the supply of commercial grade aluminium ingots by BALCO in the current year has been lower than that in the last year to its customers in all parts of the country.

(c) A part of the commercial grade aluminium production is used by

BALCO for conversion into extrusions, rolled products and foils at the facilities in the Jaykaynagar Undertaking, which is under the management of BALCO. Since the availability of CG grade aluminium from indigenous production is far less than the demand, the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has been authorised to import commercial grade aluminium in adequate quantities.

(d) The supplies by BALCO will depend on its production which in turn is dependent on the supply of power to its smelter by Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board. BALCO will also utilise a larger part of its production in its down stream facilities (e.g., extrusion presses and rolling mills) which are being progressively commissioned. The units who have been getting CG grade aluminium from BALCO can also get metal from other producers as well as MMTC.

Long Term Pact with Bangladesh

4758. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to enter into a long-term pact with the Bangladesh for purchase of newsprint;

(b) whether earlier rayon and waste was imported from Bangladesh under some earlier contract;

(c) if so, the quantity thereof and how it was disposed of and how was the quality of Bangladesh rayon yarn and how did it compare with the Indian stuff and its price; and

(d) what other trade agreements are expected to be concluded with Bangladesh during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The question of entering into long term arrangements for purchase by India of newsprint