

Change in Pattern of Distribution of Re-Rollable Steel

4796. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal under the examination of Government to change the pattern of distribution of re-rollable steel to the State Governments;

(b) what is the present pattern followed by Government for distribution of steel quota to the States and how the States are distributing their quota to the industrial units in the States;

(c) whether industrial units had demanded the change of distribution formula and it has not worked to the satisfaction of steel industrial units;

(d) what are the changes the Union Government are considering to make in the present policy of distribution of steel of re-rollable steel to the State Governments for further distribution to the steel units; and

(e) by what time the changes are likely to be effected?

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

(b) There is no statutory control on the distribution of steel at present. The question of distribution of "steel quota to the States" does not therefore arise. Steel is distributed in accordance with the guidelines formulated and announced by the Joint Plant Committee.

(c) Some representations had been received and all such representations were duly considered while formulating the guidelines.

(d) No change is being contemplated at present.

(e) Does not arise.

Imposition of Embargo by France on Import of Indian Garments

4797. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French Government has imposed an embargo on the import of Indian garments covered under category 26 of the current year;

(b) whether as a result of the measures, Indian garments worth several crores are lying uncleared with the French Customs;

(c) whether at least three to four crores worth goods are lying with the exporters awaiting to be shipped;

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Union Government;

(e) whether India has taken up this question with the French Government; and

(f) if so, the outcome of the talks held and steps taken to help the Indian garment exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir. The French Government has imposed an embargo on the import of Indian garments covered under cat. 26 (dresses) on the ground that we have crossed 1980 year quota for this cat., as per the records of the French authorities.

(b) As a result of embargo, more than 50,000 pcs of cat. 26 were reportedly held up by the French customs. Precise value of the same is not available. These have since then been got cleared through the efforts of the Indian government.

(c) As estimated by Apparel's Export Promotion Council, the quota distribution authority in India, about 1.58 lakh pcs. are still to be shipped in terms of the quota policy announced by us.

(d) to (f). The problem is principally one of reconciliation of figures