

(b) if so, whether in January last it had registered a sharp decline of 15 per cent this year;

(c) whether the latest overall figure for the last ten months of 1979-80 show a shortfall of 19 per cent against in April, 1978-79;

(d) if so, what were the main causes of this shortfall;

(e) what were the major items which accounted for this shortfall during January-April, 1979; and

(f) what steps are being taken by Government to improve the engineering goods export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) The main causes of the decline in the export of engineering goods during 1979-80 have been the shortages of essential inputs like steel, pig iron, aluminium, coke, coal, high speed diesel oil, furnace oil etc.; disruption in power supply; infrastructural difficulties like congestion at ports, lack of shipping facilities etc., labour problems and general decline in the engineering industry in the country.

(e) The major items which accounted for this shortfall during this period are industrial plant and machinery steel structurals, electric wires and cables, steel pipes and tubes, bright bars, ferrous hollow wire, sanitary castings and aluminium products.

(f) The Department of Commerce have already taken up the matter of the supply of essential raw materials and inputs like steel, pig iron, aluminium, coke, coal, high speed diesel oil, power etc. to the units engaged in export production of engineering goods with the concerned Ministries. Infrastructural difficulties like congestion in ports, lack of shipping facilities etc. are sought to be removed in consultation with the concerned authorities. In addition, the Department of Commerce are undertaking a number of export promotion measures such as holding

of and participation in trade fairs abroad, deputation of trade delegations and market survey teams to selected countries, dissemination of market intelligence to the exporters through the Engineering Export Promotion Council, etc. in order to boost the export of engineering goods.

#### **Request from Iran for supply of essential items**

1449. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Iran Government for immediate supply of essential items of consumers goods and engineering items; and

(b) if so, action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) and (b): Indications have been received by Government in recent months that Iran urgently requires a number of items, including agricultural and food products, drugs and pharmaceuticals, and engineering goods. Concerned organisations, both in the public and private sectors, have been asked to examine the possibilities of effecting supplies for necessary follow-up action.

#### **Steel Yard in Jaipur**

1450. SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Steel Yard in Jaipur is inconvenient to the traders as also to the public, it remains closed for most of the time and is unsuitable for heavy traffic;

(b) whether the Centre propose to set up a Steel Yard along the railway track in Jaipur; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?