

of ingot steel a year is already under implementation.

(b) and (c). Thinner that is, cold rolled stainless steel sheets are being imported to fill the gap between domestic demand and availability. Facilities are being created for the production of cold rolled stainless steel sheets of different thicknesses at the Salem Steel Project. This will reduce the need for import of cold rolled stainless steel sheets.

Fair Price Shops in Hill State/Regions

1514. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fair price shops in each one of the States/Union territories of the Union as on 31st March, 1980;

(b) whether the number would be increased in the case of hill states/regions, in view of the different geographical terrain;

(c) if so, the number by which the fair price shops are proposed to be increased during the current financial year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) Based on information received from State Governments the number of fair price shops statewide as in the beginning of April, 1980 is given in statement attached.

(b) to (d): The Union Government had advised the State Governments to enlarge the Public Distribution System. The objective is to ensure that every village or a group of villages having a population of 2,000 has a fair price shop. The headquarters of a village Panchayat, irrespective of its population may have a fair price shop. In remote and inaccessible areas, particularly in tribal belts, the population coverage of a village or a cluster of villages, could be even one thousand. The State Governments are required to expand the retail outlets of the Public Distribution System accordingly.

Statement

Statement showing the number of Fair Price Ration Shops prepared on 15-4-1980

Sl. No.	State	Number of fair price shops
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22183
2.	Assam	14290
3.	Bihar	27109
4.	Gujarat	8658
5.	Haryana	4469
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2603
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1500
8.	Karnataka	14000
9.	Kerala	11648

1	2	3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	10362
11.	Maharashtra	26799
12.	Manipur	525
13.	Meghalaya	1476
14.	Nagaland	111
15.	Orissa	10345
16.	Punjab	7443
17.	Rajasthan	7973
18.	Sikkim	13
19.	Tamil Nadu	17002
20.	Tripura	705
21.	Uttar Pradesh	26419
22.	West Bengal	17862
Total (State)		2,41,495

Loan from I.M.F. to meet Mounting Bill for Imported Crude

1515. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have decided to borrow some money from the International Monetary Fund's Trust to meet the mounting bill for imported crude?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): Discussions are in progress with the International Monetary Fund for obtaining a loan from the Trust Fund towards balance of payments assistance.

Visit of Finance Minister Abroad

1516. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details regarding the visit of the Finance Minister recently after attending the meeting of the interim development committees of the World

Bank at Hamburg and Asian Development Bank's annual meeting at Manila?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): The Finance Minister as the Governor for India on the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) attended the meetings of the Interim Committee and Development Committee at Hamburg. He attended the meeting of the Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of the IMF on the International Monetary System at Hamburg on April 25, 1980. The Finance Minister also attended the meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund on the transfer of real resources to developing countries (Development Committee) on April 24 at Hamburg. He also attended the meeting of Ministers of the Group of