

Arrest of Officers and G.M. of Bokaro Steel Plant

3712. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:

SHRI A. K. ROY:

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MNES be pleased to state:

(a) whether General Manager and four other officers of Bokaro Steel Plant were arrested on a charge of corruption and misappropriation of fund; and

b) if so, what are the details in this regard and action taken against these officials?

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

(b) Information received from Steel Authority of India Ltd. shows that in January, 1980 Bokaro Steel Plant sold used conveyor belts to M/s. Kailash Corporation after inviting tenders and negotiations. On the basis of complaint lodged by an Inspector of CISF on the 6th August, 1980 with Marafari Police Station alleging that a truck was suspected to be taking away new and serviceable conveyor belts instead of old and unseviceable ones from Bokaro Steel Plant, the local Police registered an FIR under section 379/411/120B, of IPC and on the mid-night of the 7th and 8th August, 1980 arrested three employees of Bokaro Steel Plant. It appears that the local Police had registered another FIR on the 11th November, 1980 on almost the same facts about disposal of old conveyor belts and arrested Shri M.F. Mehta, General Manager (Works) and four other officers (including one already retired) on the morning of 13th November, 1980. It appears from this FIR that all these officers have been charged under Section 120B, IPC Section 5(1) (d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 406/409, IPC. The matter is still under Police investigation. The Vigilance Department of Steel Authority

of India Ltd., is also looking into the case for taking necessary action.

Import of Watches

3713. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the number of importers to whom licences were issued for import of watches during last two years, year-wise;

(b) whether some cases have come to notice of Government where these imported watches bear the seal of 'Made in India'; and

(c) if so, the number of persons/companies who are not manufacturing watches and to whom licences were issued for import of watches under SKD/CKD conditions?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Particulars of import and export licences granted are published in the weekly Bulletin of Import Licences, Export Licences and Industrial Licences issued by the CCI&E, copies of which are supplied to the Parliament Library.

M/s. Hindustan Machine Tools were, however, permitted to import 15 lakh pieces of complete watches during 1977-78 with a view to bridge the gap between domestic supply and demand. The HMT actually imported 4.24 lakhs watches during 1977-78 and 6.76 lakh watches during 1978-79 from their collaborators viz M/s. Citizen Watch Co., Japan.

M/s. HMT imported these watches under their brand name 'HMT' and the word 'India' appears below HMT logogram. No such seal as 'Made in India' appears on these imported watches.

Import assistance under the crash production programme for import of CKD/SKD watch components, has been given only to those units which are approved by the Government for the manufacture of wrist watches in the country.