

की आयात की जा रही सीमित मात्रा और इन तेलों को उपभोक्ताओं विशेषकर समाज के कमजोर वर्गों को, उचित तथा युक्तिसंगत मूल्यों पर उपलब्ध कराने के लिए इनके सार्वजनिक वितरण को प्राथमिकता देने की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए राज्य सरकार को सलाह दी गई थी कि वह अपनी सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को सशक्त एवं फिर से सक्रिय बनायें। किसी भी नई वस्तु की तरह उपभोक्ताओं के बीच आयातित तेलों के लोकप्रिय बनने में भी समय लगा, परन्तु हाल ही के महीनों में अब इनकी पर्याप्त मात्रा राज्य सरकार द्वारा उठाई तथा वितरित की गई है। यद्यपि तेल वर्ष 1978-79 (नवम्बर, 78-अक्तूबर, 1979) के दौरान राज्य सरकार ने सार्वजनिक वितरण के लिये आयातित तेलों की केवल 2,776 मीटरी टन मात्रा उठाई, तथापि बाद के तेल वर्ष 1979-80 (नवम्बर, 1979-अक्तूबर, 1980) में यह मात्रा 18,261 मीटरी टन तक पहुँच गई। अतः यह कहना सही नहीं होगा कि उत्तर प्रदेश में उपभोक्ताओं ने आयातित तेलों को पसन्द नहीं किया है अथवा राज्य सरकार पर इसकी बिक्री बढ़ाने के लिये दबाव डाला जा रहा है।

Frequent changes made in credit Policies of Banks.

1754. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has admitted that frequent changes made by them in the credit policies and procedures could not produce desired results because the banks could not respond to sudden changes;

(b) whether R.B.I. report on trend and progress of banking in India for 1979-80 says that it was not possible for banks to adhere to the target stipulated for a three months' period; and

(c) what steps have been suggested by the Reserve Bank of India in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Credit policy is essentially a short term instrument and policy changes are related to the monetary and credit situation prevailing during a specific period. In this context, the changes in credit policy cannot be deemed to be excessively frequent. By and large the banks have been able to respond positively to the changes in the credit policy.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India had not stipulated any target. The guideline indicated to banks was that non-food credit expansion during 1979-80 should be less than that of the previous year, and it was this guideline which was extended upto 15 months. The performance of the banking system as a whole vis-a-vis this guideline was reasonably satisfactory.

(c) The refinance facilities were tightened in April, 1980 and again in July, 1980. The credit expansion during the slack season of 1980 has been broadly in accordance with the guidelines for the slack season.

Shortfall of Steel in Public Sector Plants

1755. SHRI B. V. DESAI:
SHRI D. P. JADEJA:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 8 lakh tonnes of shortfall of steel in the public sector plants for last 6 months has carried the availability gap this year beyond the two million tonnes mark;

(b) if so, what are the main factors responsible for this;

(c) what is the position after six months i.e. upto November, 1980;

(d) if so, whether there seems to be no improvement because the power shortage continues to be there; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The shortfall in actual production of saleable steel at public sector steel plant against the proportionate target during the period April—September, 1980 was 7.14 lakh tonnes. The gap between the total requirement and indigenous production for the entire year is estimated at 1.4 million tonnes which will be met by imports under different schemes such as "back to back" OGL and buffer imports.

(b) The main factors responsible for shortfall in production are severe restriction in power supply and inadequate availability of coking coal to the steel plants.

(c) and (d). Contrary to the trend in the first six months of the year, the actual production of 4.06 lakh tonnes of saleable steel during October, 1980 was marginally higher than the production in the same month last year. Power shortage, however, continues to be a serious impediment to increased production.

(e) Some of the important steps taken by Government to achieve increased production of steel includes import of coking coal, maximisation of power generation from the captive units in the steel plants, close and constant liaison with input supplying agencies, regular monitoring of power and coal position at various levels; schemes for additional captive power generation facilities at Durgapur and Bokaro.

Appointment of committee of experts on working of Public Enterprises

1756. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have appointed a committee of experts to examine the working of the public enterprises in Coal, Steel, Shipping and Fertilizers;

(b) if so, who are its members;

(c) the scope and objects of the committee; and

(d) when the committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee consists of:—

- (i) Shri Mohd. Fazal, Member Planning Commission Chairman
- (ii) Shri K.S. Rajan, Director General Technical Development & Secretary, Department of Technical Development, Ministry of Industry, New Delhi Member
- (iii) Dr. L.K. Behl, Chairman and Managing Director, Indian Drug & Pharmaceuticals Ltd., New Delhi Member
- (iv) Shri P.K. Basu, Director General, Bureau of Public Enterprises and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of Expenditure) Member-Secretary

(c) The Committee has been required to identify, inter-alia the steps necessary to improve performance of the public enterprises and to draw up a time-bound action programme directed to:

- (i) ensuring maximum utilisation of installed capacity;
- (ii) ensuring adequate control of operational costs;
- (iii) improvement of preventive and predictive maintenance of plant and equipment; and
- (iv) improvement in management and operational efficiency.