

(b): The major items imported during the last four years are—petroleum and petroleum products, vegetable oils, fertilisers, iron and steel, non ferrous metals, machinery, chemicals etc.

The total value of India's imports from major markets during the last four years have been as follows:—

(Value in Rs. crores)

	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80 (Provisional)
Canada	129.40	181.20	240.30	223.40
USA	1053.01	755.87	761.90	869.80
Iran	507.97	543.49	348.50	620.10
Japan	297.36	427.44	565.00	610.20
Iraq	280.17	331.12	583.20	857.90
Saudi Arabia	331.98	246.80	198.90	371.20
USSR	316.05	446.38	470.60	728.60
France	140.30	158.46	226.10	187.90
G.F.R.	316.81	554.82	629.60	644.50
U.K.	366.67	461.07	569.90	663.50

Closure of foundries due to shortage of Pig Iron

4390. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of pig iron in some States;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that some foundries have been closed because of the shortage of pig iron;

(c) if so, the number of such foundries, State-wise; and

(d) the measures Government have taken to reopen them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The home sales of pig iron by SAIL during April, 1980—February, 1981 were 1,105,300 tonnes as against 814,500 tonnes during the similar period in

the previous year. There has thus been substantial improvement in supplies. However, it is true that reports have been received about short-fall in availability as against demand. Efforts are being made to step up the production of pig iron further. Meanwhile, pig iron is also allowed for import under O.G.L. in the current Import Policy.

(b) Government have no specific information about any foundries being closed for want of pig iron.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Loss of production in Steel Plants

4391. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the loss of production in steel plants in 1980-81 due to short supply of power by D.V.C.?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI

PRANAB MUKHERJEE): The production of steel is dependent on adequate availability of a number of essential inputs including power, it is not possible, therefore, to quantify the loss of production due to any single factor, e.g., short supply of power by D.V.C.

रुपये का मूल्य

4392. श्री मूल चन्द्र डागा : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रुपए का वर्तमान मूल्य कितना है और गत 34 वर्षों के दौरान इस में कितनी कमी हुई है; और

(ख) इस के क्या कारण हैं ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री धार० बेंकटरामन) :

(क) रुपए की क्रय शक्ति, जैसा कि उसे औद्योगिक श्रमिकों के अखिल भारतीय उपभोक्ता कीमत सूचकांक (आधार 1960-100 1947 तक समायोजित) के व्युत्क्रम में मापा गया है 1980 में 18.38 वैसे बैठती है। एक अवधि में रुपए की आन्तरिक क्रय शक्ति में ह्रास, किसी भी अन्य करेंसी के समान, कीमतों में वृद्धि होने के कारण होता है। किन्तु इस बात पर ध्यान दिया जाए कि इस अवधि के दौरान धन के रूप में प्रति व्यक्ति आय में तो 460 प्रतिशत से भी अधिक की वृद्धि हुई है, किन्तु वास्तविक रूप में इस में 50 प्रतिशत से अधिक की वृद्धि हुई है।

(ख) कीमतों में होने वाली वृद्धि के कारणों की चर्चा आनुक्रमिक आर्थिक समीक्षाओं में की गई है।

Disparity in allowances and incidental expenses in Banks

4393. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is disparity existing in the matters of allowances and other incidental expenses in banks while compared to other Government offices; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the average of allowances of overtime and D.A. etc. while compared to other Government Offices, expenditure incurred yearly in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir. There are differences in the matters of allowances etc. as available to the employees of the banks and those of the Central Government.

(b) The payment of overtime and dearness allowance to the employees of public sector banks is made under a formula which is different from that applicable to the Central Government employees. It is therefore not possible to compare the average of overtime allowance and dearness allowance etc. drawn by the employees of public sector banks with the average of overtime allowance and dearness allowance admissible to Central Government employees. As regards the expenditure incurred on payment of overtime and D.A. to the employees of public sector banks, the information for the last four years,