

In pursuance of the recommendation of Qureshi Committee, it has been decided to earmark 50% of the allocations to trade for despatch against new orders and the balance 50% for despatch against earlier orders. For this purpose the new orders would mean those which have been issued to traders with the two years lapse clause.

(b) There is no fixed percentage of materials to be supplied by the main producers' stockyards to traders. It depends on factors like availability and volume of priority requirements for each category and quantity. Materials left over after meeting higher priority demands, and materials not lifted by other allottees within stipulated periods, are sold to trade subject to the conditions laid down by the Joint Plant Committee in the Stockyards distribution procedure.

(c) There is no price control on the quantities given to trade for resale purposes. However, only a very small percentage of available steel is allotted to trade.

#### Direct sale of Billets by Steel Re-Rollers

702. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the steel re-rollers are permitted to sell the billets and other products to the trade and stockists direct;

(b) the quota fixed by Government for such sales by the re-rollers in case of steel produced from scrap if so, what; and

(c) the measures devised by Government to prevent the black-marketing of steel by the trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Billets Re-rollers are not permitted to sell billets. They are to sell finished products as per the approved rolling programmes and the allocations made by the Billet Re-rollers Committee. Billet Re-Rollers are not permitted to sell the products rolled out of the billets supplied to them to the trade direct. 25% of their production is, however channelled through the main producers' stockyards. Out of this 40% is allocated to trade through the main producers' stockyards.

(b) Out of about two lakh tonnes of used rails being made available by the Railways, about 1,50,000 tonnes are being supplied to Scrap-Re-Rollers on the condition that the re-rolled products will be placed at the disposal of the stockyards of the main producers. There is no control on the scrap Re-Rollers in respect of sale of steel produced from scrap and electric furnace ingots.

(c) There is no control on the price at which materials, given to traders for resale purposes, are sold by them. The quantity of steel going to trade are, however, insignificant in comparison to the quantities given to actual consumers direct.

#### Chinese base in Sri Lanka

703. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: SHRI MUHAMMED SHE-RIFF:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to Sri Lanka having agreed to allow the Chinese to build a base in that country in the Indian Ocean which is likely to disturb the neutrality of the zone; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No such agreement has come to the notice of Government. A Press Release dated 20th July, 1972, issued by the High Commission for the Republic of Sri Lanka in Delhi denies reports of Sri Lanka having agreed to such an arrangement.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Expenditure on maintenance of camps for East Bengal Refugees

704. SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure to-date on the maintenance of Camps for East Bengal refugees;

(b) whether all the refugees have since been repatriated, if not, the number still awaiting repatriation;