

**Hoarding of Baby Tinned Milk Food**

4356. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of traders and business-men are hoarding baby tinned milk food in Bihar and selling it at exorbitantly high price; and

(b) whether Government contemplate any action to checkmate the black marketeers and adopt some alternative means of distribution through cooperative societies?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). According to information received from the Government of Bihar, no report about selling at exorbitant prices and hoarding of baby tinned milk food has been received so far, and baby tinned milk food is being sold in the State through Co-operative Societies also besides Private bodies.

**Quantity of Sulphur imported from Iraq**

4357 SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA. Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sulphur India is importing from Iraq;

(b) whether Iraq has requested India to step up the quantity; and

(c) if so, on what terms and the reaction of Government therein?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has concluded a contract for import of one lakh tonnes of sulphur from Iraq.

(b) and (c). Iraq has indicated to the MMTTC that they will be interested

in supplying higher quantities of sulphur in the future but no specific proposal has been made by them in this behalf.

**Export Price of Steel Pipes and Tubes**

4358. SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export price of steel pipes and tubes are competitive with prices of other countries and the internal prices of steel pipes and tubes sold in our country;

(b) in case the export prices of the above items are less, how the exporters are benefited by selling it outside the country at the lower prices; and

(c) how much and on what items the subsidy is being given to the exporters, who are selling at low prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (c). The export prices of steel pipes and tubes are competitive with those of foreign countries even though they are lower compared to domestic prices. The exporters cover the price gap between export price and internal price by drawback of duties, import replenishments and compensatory support given by the Government. These exports help the industry to utilise idle capacity to a great extent

**Purchase of Cinema Halls in Bombay and Calcutta by M/s. Tramarsa of Geneva**

4359. SHRI JYOTIRMROY BOSU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to articles published in the 'Economic Times', dated the 17th November and 30th November, 1972 respectively, under the caption "Phantom takes over" and "the Metro-Mys-