

Brass-ware Manufacturers of Moradabad

2678. Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the small scale brass-ware manufacturers of Moradabad are experiencing much difficulty in getting raw materials like copper and zinc in spite of their fixed quota for these raw materials;

(b) if so, whether the shortage is real or artificial;

(c) whether Government have undertaken an enquiry to find out the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to redress their grievances?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (d). There is a general shortage of non-ferrous metals particularly copper and zinc. Equitable distribution of available supplies is made to the different State Governments, who in turn make allotments to individual units. The Government of India are not aware that the Small Scale brass manufacturers of Moradabad are facing any special difficulties which are not faced by others. The difficulties experienced by the units are due to the increased demand from expanding and new units all over the country. The position in regard to copper and zinc will ease only when the Foreign Exchange situation improves.

Disarmament Conference

2679. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has recently suggested a plan for an International Disarmament Treaty at a meeting of the 17-Power Disarmament Conference;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the plan; and

(c) the reaction of the Conference thereto?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (c). Draft programmes covering the different stages of complete and general disarmament have so far been submitted to the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee only by the Delegates of the Soviet Union and the United States of America. Other delegates have in the course of discussion put forward ideas or proposals designed to assist in achieving an agreed disarmament treaty and Indian representatives have also made such suggestions, both procedural and substantive, which have proved helpful. They have not, however, proposed any draft International Disarmament Treaty.

Tea Promotional Measures

2680. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received demands for supporting and subsidising the private Indian Traders to establish their own propaganda and distribution centres in such countries where there exist joint councils for tea and where Government find it difficult to have promotional measures for Indian Tea directly; and

(b) if so, Government's decision in this regard?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir. Recently a firm in India approached Government for some subsidy to enable it 'to float suitable packet of Indian blended tea' in the U.S.A.

(b) The suggestion is under consideration.