

(c) The contract has not yet been fully executed and as such it is not possible at this stage to state the loss or profit out of this transaction.

#### **Asbestos Cement Roofing Sheets in Madras State**

**1985. Shri V. Thevar:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) the places where factories for manufacturing asbestos roofing sheets and allied goods have been set up in Madras State;

(b) the agencies through which the distribution is made and the rate fixed for the roofing sheets;

(c) whether there is any separate allocation made for agricultural purposes; and

(d) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of asbestos cement roofing sheets in Madras State and if so, what action has been taken or proposed to be taken to bring down the cost and effect better distribution?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri P. C. Sethi):** (a) Podanur.

(b) There is no statutory control on price and distribution of asbestos cement products. The Directorate General, Supplies and Disposals, handle the indents from Government Departments including Defence and purchases are made under rate contract, at prices fixed under the contract. The D.G.S. & D. supplies amount to 75 per cent of the total production. The manufacturers are allowed to dispose of 5 per cent of the production through their dealers/stockists for meeting small demands of consumers. For the balance quantity of 20 per cent of the production, orders are booked by the manufacturers and these are brought before the Directorate General of Technical Development for indicating priorities for supplies to essential consumers like factories, agricultural farms, educational institutions etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is a shortage of asbestos cement roofing sheets not only in Madras State, but equally in all other parts of the country. Apart from M/s. Asbestos Cement Ltd., Podanur, Supplies are also arranged from M/s. Hyderabad Asbestos Cement Products Ltd., Hyderabad, who have recently doubled their production. Some schemes for setting up additional capacity in the field of asbestos cement sheets are under consideration.

#### **Bhilai Steel Plant Workers**

**1986. Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of workers in the mines under Bhilai Steel Project are being maintained on a "Nominal Muster Roll" despite their having been in continuous employment for years together; and

(b) the reasons for refusing Status of permanent workers to these Nominal Muster Roll workers, thereby depriving them of all benefits and facilities?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri P. C. Sethi):** (a) Some workers are employed on nominal muster roll especially for prospecting work.

(b) These workers are engaged on unskilled work of a purely temporary nature and have already been rendered surplus. They are being retained on nominal muster roll instead of being retrenched. As and when permanent vacancies occur, the nominal muster roll workers are usually absorbed against these vacancies. The nominal muster workers are also entitled to similar benefits and facilities as in the case of permanent workers.

#### **Buffer Stock of Cardamom**

**1987. Shri M. G. Thegondar:** Will the Minister of International Trade be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gov-