

industry, imports of intermediate items like red oxide, aromex, paraformaldehyde, etc., are not liberally granted to it ;

(c) whether the decision of refineries in India to discontinue manufacture of Solvent 2445, the indigenous substitute for mineral turpentine which is an important raw material for the paint industry, has added to the problem of raw material paucity ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to ensure sufficient supply of raw materials to the paints and varnish industry, capacity utilisation in which during the past few years has not crossed the 65 per cent mark ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) :** (a) No, Sir. In fact, production of finished paints and varnishes in the organised sector has increased from 52,536 tonnes during 1967 to 62,106 tonnes during 1969.

(b) Import of essential raw material required by paint manufacturers is permitted Red Oxide (Persian Gulf). Synthetic Iron Oxide Pigments (excluding shades 445, 446 and 473) are allowed to be imported by actual users. Aromax is a proprietary product. Paraformaldehyde as such is not used in the manufacture of paints ; however its import is permitted to resin manufacturers who use it to manufacture intermediates which are required for the manufacture of paints.

(c) Only the Esso Refinery reduced its production of Mineral Turpentine Oil in June, 1968, and stopped its production in July, 1969 and to that extent it had affected the Paint Industry.

(d) Special Kerosene Oil was made available by the Government from the public sector refineries at Koyali and Madras which served as a substitute for Mineral Turpentine Oil, and this special Kerosene Oil was accepted by the Indian Paint Association as a suitable substitute. Discussions were also held with the Esso Company and they have resumed production of Mineral

Turpentine Oil from July 1970. Other Oil Companies including the Esso Company have also agreed to enhance the rate of production of Mineral Turpentine Oil.

**Enhanced Pay for Employees of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation**

3127. **SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SHAH :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that following an agreement between the management and the Employees' Union, the workers of the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation are to get enhanced pay which will cost the Corporation extra Rs. 40.00 lakhs per annum; and

(b) if so, the rationale for such a wage settlement ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) :** (a) and (b). In terms of the Tripartite Wage settlement reached at the State level for the Engineering Industry in West Bengal between the Associations of Employers and the Federations of Trade Unions, Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd., have entered into agreements with the two major unions operating in the company, on revision of wages for workmen and other issues of the Charters of Demands of the Unions. The financial implication of the wage revision is Rs. 33 lakhs a year.

**Import of Steel**

3128. **SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) the tonnage and value of different items of steel imported in the last three financial years and the targets of import for 1970-71;

(b) the quantity and value of high carbon wire rods used for wire ropes, prestressed concrete wire, A. C. S. R. conduc-

tors, tyre bead wire, etc. imported during the above period and the target of imports for 1970-71; and

(c) whether his Ministry has conducted any study with regard to the import requirements of steel consumers during the Fourth Plan period and, if so, the details thereof, category-wise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Statement showing import of steel during 1967-68, 1968-69 and 1969-70 is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in library. See No. LT-399/70*] No precise estimate of the quantity of the steel to be imported during 1970-71, can be given at this stage as a substantial part of the import will be by a large number of actual users.

(b) The detailed category-wise break-up sought is not maintained, and it will be too time consuming and expensive to make any attempt to collect the data now. For 1970-71 no target can be indicated in view of the position stated at (a) above.

(c) No, Sir. However, the NCAER have recently been entrusted with the work to assess the demand for steel for next few years. It is only after the results of this study are available that the future import requirements on the basis of the gaps between demand and supplies can be worked out.

#### Production in Bhilai Steel Plant

3129. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bhilai Steel Plant has an installed capacity to produce 2.5 million tonnes of steel ingots per year and that it successfully completed trial runs for the above annual capacity in January, 1969;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Plant had achieved the above production capacity and even exceeded it in the week

ended 15th January, 1969, and that this was given wide publicity;

(c) if so, the moth-wise production performance of the Bhilai Steel Plant since January, 1969; and

(d) the reasons for the actual production being lower than the rated capacity despite a severe shortage of steel being felt in the country, and despite the fact that capacity production had already been achieved in January, 1969 itself ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) and (b). It is a fact that Bhilai Steel Plant has an installed capacity to produce 2.5 million tonnes of ingot steel per year and this rated capacity was achieved during a trial run undertaken for one week from 9th to 15th January, 1969.

(c) Monthwise production of ingot steel since January, 1969 is as under :

Month	(In '000 tonnes)	
	1969	1970
January	177.9	177.0
February	121.8	154.5
March	136.8	192.4
April	143.8	163.6
May	149.7	136.6
June	124.3	162.6
July	147.5	166.2
August	148.6	...
September	130.8	...
October	162.5	...
November	160.0	...
December	168.1	...

(d) The short-fall in production was mainly due to longer time taken in repairs, including capital repairs, of blast furnaces and open hearth furnaces on account of shortage of requisite quality and quantity of refractories, and to some extent due to uneasy industrial relations during May to September 1969. The high production week was observed in January, 1969 to test