

Minimum Import Price for Steel

659. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "By fixing prices Government forces hawala, say steel importers" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated January 30,1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government has notified floor prices in respect of certain steel items to restrict their cheap imports into the country. This was necessitated due to the fact that the imports of steel at very low prices from CIS countries and some South East Asian countries in bulk quantities were causing serious threat to the indigenous steel industry by depressing prices to unremunerative levels. The floor prices were fixed on the basis of average Cost Insurance and Freight (CIF) prices from non-dumping sources such as Europe & Japan. The floor prices are subject to revision from time to time based upon the trend of international prices.

[Translation]

C.M. Vasudev Committee

660. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted C.M. Vasudev Committee to give suggestions and recommendations in regard to expansion of steel industry;

(b) if so, the date on which the Committee was constituted and whether this Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations accepted by the Government for implementation; and

(d) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) In view of the recent slow down in the growth of the Indian steel industry a Working Group was set up in October '98 under the Chairmanship of Shri C.M. Vasudev for identifying measures to impart growth momentum to the steel sector and not for expansion of steel industry. The Group has since submitted its report.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Autonomy to Banks

661. SHRI K. PARYMOHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently granted autonomy to any nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criterion adopted for granting autonomy to any nationalised banks;

(d) whether the Government have received similar requests from any other nationalised banks in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (c) In the context of liberalisation of the economy as well as keeping in view the recommendations made by Mehta Committee on recruitment methods and practices in Public Sector Banks, the banks have been given autonomy for creation of posts upto TEGS VI, direct recruitment of specialists officers as well as campus recruitment upto 30 percent of the vacancies of Probationary Officers earmarked for direct recruitment, reimbursement of entertainment expenses; formulation of policies for rural/ semi-urban posting, deputation of officers, induction on contract basis, posting in overseas branches; and promotion of officers upto the rank of Deputy General Manager.