

(vii) NEED FOR DIRECTION TO M.M.T.C. TO RESTORE SUPPLIES OF ALUMINIUM TO THE UTENSIL UNITS IN TAMIL NADU

SHRI N. KANDASWAMY (Tiruchengode): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the two thousand and odd aluminium utensils manufacturing units in Tamil Nadu are on the verge of winding up because of the wayward approach of the Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India. Suddenly, M.M.T.C. has suspended the supplies of imported commercial grade aluminium since the last week of March, 1981. The actual users had made the payment for the imported metal and delivery orders were issued, but suddenly, on March 23, the MMTC informed the actual users that the delivery orders stood withdrawn.

Recently only the MMTC resorted to the price hike of Rs. 2700 per tonne and these units were trying to come out of the red. The MMTC's argument of 'stock-taking' does not sound plausible for withdrawing the delivery orders. It is widely believed that this is a pre-emptive step on the part of the MMTC anticipating a price increase by the Government for aluminium. Here, it is worth mentioning that aluminium utensils which were once upon a time the poor man's cooking vessels have become fancy and luxury items of affluent sections of society. The aluminium utensils industry pays excise levy of Rs. 1,300 per tonne. Though it is known to the Government that aluminium utensils are used by the common people, yet aluminium containers have not been included in the list of 72 items eligible for excise concessions. Aluminium has also not been included in the list of items of special importance under the Central Sales Tax Act so that multiplication of sales tax subject to special excise levy at State level could be avoided. I demand that the Government should direct the MMTC to restore supplies of aluminium to these units immediately.

(viii) NEED TO INCREASE THE CREDIT DEPOSIT ON RATES OF NATIONALISED BANKS IN WEST BENGAL

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, West Bengal has been deprived of the benefit of an additional investment of about Rs. 500 crores because of the Commercial Banks failure to raise the credit-deposit ratio in the State to the same level as in Maharashtra. The performance of commercial banks in the rural area had been the worst in West Bengal. While the credit-deposit ratio in the rural areas till the end of June 1980 was 104.39 per cent in Andhra Pradesh, 88.85 per cent in Tamil Nadu, 87.09 per cent in Orissa, 76.40 per cent in Maharashtra and 62.13 per cent in Bihar but it is 34.72 per cent in West Bengal. All this in spite of the fact that the average recovery of loans in West Bengal was around the national average.

Sir, I wonder why the commercial banks were so shy of advancing loans to the poorest sections of the rural people in West Bengal? Besides, the recovery of loans from the big capitalists was also very unsatisfactory. In West Bengal, about Rs. 230 crores remained unrealised from the big capitalists.

Under the circumstances, I urge upon the Government to increase the credit deposit ratio in West Bengal in comparison to the other States and I also demand that the Minister concerned should give a statement in the House in this regard.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1981-82—
—contd.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE—contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up further discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Defence. There is a long list of Members who want to speak. The Prime Minister has to reply at 5.00 p.m. I request the hon. Members to refrain themselves from making lengthy speeches.