

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

[English]

**Import of Books Under OGL**

\*881. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH:  
SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of books, periodicals, magazines and newspapers are imported under the Open General Licence;

(b) the total amount of foreign exchange spent on such imports during 1989;

(c) the percentage of foreign exchange spent on import of educational books, periodicals, magazines and newspapers; and

(d) whether Government propose to ban their import under the OGL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1988-89, the level of import of printed books was of the order of Rs. 114.12 crores and that of newspapers, journals and periodicals of the level of Rs. 2.79 crores.

(c) The percentage of the value of imports of books on the one hand and the periodicals, magazines and newspapers on the other, during 1988-89 was of the order of 97.6 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively.

(d) There is no proposal for banning the import of books under OGL considering the importance of books for free flow of informa-

tions and ideas. However, suitable restrictions to prevent misuse of the import facility have been imposed in the new Import Policy.

**Steel Production in Private Sector**

\*882. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:  
SHRI SARJU PRASAD SAROJ:

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

(a) whether Government propose to throw open steel production with capacities between one lack to seven lakh tonnes per annum to private sector;

(b) if so, the reasons for this new turn in policy; and

(c) the salient features of the revised policy?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c). A proposal is under formulation for Government's consideration to provide greater flexibility to the private sector to take investment decisions to produce iron and steel items within a range of economic capacities.

**Import of Photographic Goods**

\*883. SHRI B. RAJARAVI VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and type of photographic goods which are indigenously manufactured either by integrated production or from imported jumbo rolls;

(b) whether the indigenously available finished products are also being allowed to be imported even though their CIF value is