

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

more than CIF value of corresponding measure of jumbo rolls;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) to (d). Photographic films (Colour) and Photographic paper (colour) in finished form are allowed for import under OGL by all persons for stock and sale. This has been done in view of the preference shown by the tourists for imported photographic colour films and to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the promotion of tourism which is an important source of foreign exchange earnings. However, at the same time indigenous production is being protected through tariff measures.

STATEMENT

The following types of photo-sensitized goods are being manufactured from the basic stage:—

- (i) Black and White cine positive.
- (ii) Black and White cine sound negative.
- (iii) Black and White roll film.
- (iv) Black and White photographic paper.
- (v) Cellulose Tri-acetate based X-ray film.
- (vi) Resin coated paper.

(vii) Video imaging film.

The following photosensitized goods are being converted from imported jumbo rolls:—

- (i) Polyester film based medical and industrial X-ray film.
- (ii) Cine colour positive.
- (iii) Colour roll film.
- (iv) Graphic art film.
- (v) Photographic colour paper.

Production of integrated photosensitized material during the year 1988-89 is about 6.8 million sq. mtr. and the production/import of various other photosensitized material during the year 88-89 is about 18.2 million sq. mtr.

[*Translation*]

Unit Trust of India

884. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Directors of the Unit Trust of India (UTI) at present;
- (b) the U..T.I. schemes in operation for investment;
- (c) the present amount of funds with the U.T.I., which can be invested;
- (d) whether the U.T.I. proposes to launch any scheme or fund in foreign countries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) There are eleven