

(b) whether the same was fully utilised for the projects for which it was meant; and

(c) the amount of loan expected from I.M.F. during the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No loan was sought from the IMF during the last financial year.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Distribution of Iron and Steel Items by SAIL

10429. SHRI KESHARI LAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether scarce steel items like Rounds/GP sheets (.63/.5 mm) in special/ordinary quality have been released by Branch Sales Office, SAIL, New Delhi under TBS/LTC during January-March/April-June, 1990 by violating distribution norms;

(b) the allocation made percentage wise for Rounds/GP Sheets in both the qualities during the above period;

(c) whether these percentages of allocation were applied uniformly to all customers;

(d) whether pre-offers/additional pre-offers quantities of GP sheets, LFQ were subsequently changed into ordinary quality while status 'A' demand for ordinary quality was pending; and

(e) if so, the quantities so changed alongwith the details of the Parties and the reasons for such change?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no percentage-wise allocation for rounds/G.P. Sheets.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) When alternative quality material was offered against TBS of January-March, 1989, there were no pending Status 'A' bookings for the material.

(e) About 166 tonnes of ordinary quality G.P. Sheets were supplied by SAIL to five parties against LFQ G.P. sheets, so as to obviate the possibility of payment of penalties against TBS Booking.

Advertising expenditure on Soft Drinks and Product Cost

10430. SHRI SHIKIHO SEMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that huge expenditure is incurred by the manufacturers of soft drinks on the advertising/publicity resulting in higher cost of the products;

(b) if so, the average cost of publicity expenditure on each bottle;

(c) whether Government propose to put any ceiling on advertising expenditure to bring down the prices; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Permission for Testifying of 7 CLs Outside Wharf Area

10431. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: