

(a) whether the total indigenous production of prime tinplate decreased during the last financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and how far it is short of the total demand;

(c) the estimated quantity of tin-plate used for food-packaging and non-food packaging purposes in the country annually;

(d) whether tin manufactures particularly in the small scale sector are producing waste and secondary grade tinplate; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to increase the indigenous production of primary tinplate and ban the production and use of waste tinplate for food packaging?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several factors have contributed to the decrease of indigenous production of tinplate in the last financial year. These include higher landed cost of Tin Mill Black Plate (TMBP), increase in direct import of prime tinplate and also tinplate waste, and competition from other materials used in the packaging industries like plastic, Paper, Card boards etc. The gap between indigenous production and total assessed demand in 1989-90 is about 1.9 lakh tonnes.

(c) Authentic published data on quantity of tinplate used for food-packaging and non-food packaging in the country are not available.

(d) Tinplate is not manufactured in the small scale sector. Tinplate waste and secondary grade tinplate are not produced, but these are arising during the process of manufacture of prime tinplate.

(e) More units are being permitted to produce Tin Plates. No ban on use of tinplate waste for food-packaging is advisable unless there are good grounds to do so.

Development of Indian Fishery Industry

10495. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Schemes implemented by the Marine Products Export Development Authority for the development of Indian fishery industry;

(b) whether the Schemes for building frozen storage refrigerated trucks have been discontinued; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and the financial loss incurred by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) The Schemes implemented by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for the development of Indian Fishery Industry include:-

- (i) Schemes for Technology-upgradation and value-addition;
- (ii) Schemes for product development;
- (iii) Scheme of equity participation by the MPEDA in projects for promoting value added products and deep sea fishing;
- (iv) Schemes for upgradation and quality control of seafood processing Units;
- (v) Schemes for promoting prawn

farming and setting up prawn hatcheries for supply of seeds and;

- (vi) Participation in Specialised Commodity Fairs abroad, publicity programmes abroad and organising Buyer-Seller Meets.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) These Schemes were initiated with the objective of being catalyst for encouraging private entrepreneurship in the marine export sector through provision of basic infrastructural facilities. They were discontinued after this limited purpose was achieved. These Schemes cannot be appropriately assessed in terms of profit or loss.

Proposal for Financial Restructuring of Scindia Steam Navigation Company

10496. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for the financial restructuring of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited;

(b) if so, its broad features; and

(c) Government's stake in the Company?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). The Rehabilitation Proposal submitted by the company is under consideration of Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited (SCICI).

(c) The total outstanding exposure of the Government of India through loans and guarantees amounts to Rs. 178 crores approximately as on March 31, 1990.

Export of Silico-Manganese to Japan

10497. SHRI S. B. THORAT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the complaints received regarding bad quality of materials of silico-manganese supplied by Maharashtra Electros melt Limited to Japan from Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Maharashtra Electros melt Limited (MEL) had exported silico manganese in the last quarter of 1988-89 and 2nd quarter of 1989-90 to Malaysia and Japan. The 2nd shipment was as per contract between M/s. Cotia International, consignee Toyo Denka Kogyo Co. Ltd., Japan and MEL. Although the material in Chemical composition was within the specifications, M/S. COTIA complained that it contained oversize. The Indian agency M/S. SGS India Pvt. Ltd. who has been appointed under an agreement between M/S. Cotia International and MEL had cleared the material based on their sampling tests at Vizag.

As it was considered that it would not be in the commercial interest of MEL to have quality complaint from Japanese buyers, a team of two Senior Officers from MEL visited Japan and after inspection of the material a MOU was signed for compensation of expenses to Japanese party for screening the material and realising some of the oversize material.

This payment to the Japanese party was unavoidable as otherwise MEL would