

plant. If we want to file the cases then within a week or two we have to take the decision. Government is fully prepared and making all preparations to take all necessary steps to safeguard the interests of the victims.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

[English]

Import of Cement

*245. SHRI MOHAN BHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of cement imported during the year 1984 and the amount involved;

(b) at what rate the import was made

and from which country;

(c) the quantity of cement likely to be imported during the year 1985; and

(d) the steps being taken to produce more cement in the country and reduce import of cement in future to save foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) A quantity of 4.59 lakhs MTs of cement valued at Rs.23. 85 crores was imported on C. & F. basis during 1984, by S.T.C.

(b) The names of countries and the rates at which import was made are as under :

Name of country	Type of cement	Rate per M. T.
Poland	Ordinary Grey Portland cement	US S. 30 per M.T. F.O.B.
G.D.R.	—do—	Rs. 310. 40 per M.T. F.O.B.
Romania	—do—	Rs. 315 per M.T.F.O.B.
South Korea	Sulphate Resistance Cement	US \$. 48 per M.T. F.O.B.
Yugoslavia	White Cement	US \$.120. 50 per MT C&F

(c) No final decision has been taken on the total quantum of import of cement during 1985.

(d) In order to produce more cement installation of additional capacity has been approved. It is also being ensured that there is greater capacity utilization of existing units .

Banking Services in West Bengal

*247 : SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the banking service in West Bengal particularly of the Leand Banks are reported to be very poor ;

(b) if so, the details of complainants

received-and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to improve the functioning of the Banks there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The performance of banks in the State of West Bengal has been showing improvement over time. The deposits of Scheduled Commercial Banks in the State have increased from Rs. 3579 crores in December, 1979 to Rs. 6, 792 crores in March 1984. Advances have gone up from Rs.2, 302 crores to Rs. 3,889 crores during the same period. The average population per branch office for the State has improved from 23,000 as on 31-3-1982 to 19,000 on 31-12-1984. Priority sector advances by public sector banks in the State

increased from Rs. 409.39 crores at the end of December 1979 to Rs. 766.4 crores at the end of December, 1983. Disbursements under integrated Rural Development Programme in the State increased from Rs. 2.57 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 30.42 crores in 1983-84. Constant efforts are being made to further improve banking services in the State for the benefit of the local population.

Stock Exchange Reforms

*250. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had agreed to seek the views of the G.S. Patel Committee on Stock Exchange reforms on the proposals made periodically for setting up of mutual funds in the private sector in the interest of mobilising larger funds from the capital market.

(b) if so, the extent to which the reforms on stock exchange have been made;

(c) whether the views of Patel Committee were received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise, in view of answer to (a) above.

Steps to Reduce Production of Low Quality Steel at Rourkela Steel Plant.

251. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state.

(a) whether the tonnage of discarded (low quality) steel has been increased in the manufacturing process of Rourkela Steel Plant in 1984-85 as compared to

1983-84;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps Government the public sector undertaking are contemplating to reduce the production of low quality (rejected) steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps taken at Rourkela Steel Plant for improving the quality of steel are installation of desulphurisation facility, process control computer for LD Converters and secondary steel making. These steps have already yielded results.

In the proposal for technological upgradation of Rourkela Steel Plant, emphasis will be laid on improvement of input raw materials.

Sinter production capacity will also be expanded. Latest technology would be incorporated in LD steel making process by installing top and bottom blowing facilities in the LD Converters. It is expected that these steps will further reduce the arisings of low quality steel.

Guidelines Issued By Nabard to Commercial and Co-operative Land Development Banks

*252. SHRI K. RAMA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines issued by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to all the commercial banks as well as the State Co-operative Land Development Banks indicating that it would be very selective in refinancing the loans extended for the purchase of tractors with HP exceeding 35; and

(b) the reasons for taking such a step?