

Under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976, show causes notices were issued in 185 cases involving properties worth Rs. 4 crores from 1.1.1983 to 30.11.1985. 241 cases involving properties worth Rs. 4.65 crores were disposed of during the aforesaid period.

Steps Taken to Improve the Quality of Steel in the Public Sector Steel Plants

*369. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our country has not been able to produce high quality steel and that even the production of ordinary steel has gone down;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been increase in the prices of steel about one and half to two fold during the last one year or so; and

(c) the progress made in implementing the various steps to improve the quality of steel in the public sector steel plants and how does it compare with the pace of progress in private sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) No, Sir. Various grades of high quality steel are now being made in the country; production of some of these items like Electrical Steel Sheets, LPG Sheets and Deep Drawing and Extra Deep Drawing quality steel sheets has been going up steadily. Total saleable steel production in the country has also been going up.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A number of measures have been introduced for quality improvement in Rourkela, Bhilai and Bokaro Steel Plants. Measures for improving quality have been incorporated in the modernisation schemes of Durgapur. In recent years, some of the steel plants in the public sector have introduced desiliconisation, desulphurisation, lime dust injection, ladle refining and closer process control measures. Rourkela Steel Plant has recently commenced production of silicon steel. It is introducing new rolling techniques for improving

strength and ductility characteristics of steel on trial basis while Bhilai has introduced continuous casting.

TISCO is presently implementing a scheme for upgrading the quality of their products by installing facilities like Basic Oxygen Converter, Vacuum Arc De-gasing and continuous casting. Measure to improve the quality of steel produced in steel plants is a continuous process

Export of Chillies and Turmeric

*370. SHRI MANIK REDDY :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA
REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that stock of chillies and turmeric has accumulated in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to instruct the Spices Export Promotion Council to promote exports of the above items;

(c) if so, the quantity likely to be exported during 1985-86; and

(d) the quantity exported during the last three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No report regarding accumulation of stock in Andhra Pradesh has been received.

(b) The Spices Export Promotion Council is already taking various steps to promote exports of spices including chillies and turmeric which include sponsoring of delegations of exporters, contract promotion programmes and participation in food fairs etc.

(c) As per current indications, the exports of chillies and turmeric during 1985-86 are expected to be lower than the preceding years. No specific figure can be indicated at this stage for exports anticipated during 1985-86.

(d) Statement indicating exports during the last three years is attached