

domestically produced steel at international prices to the exporters; and

(c) the main items covered by the price protection scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Following Government's announcement to accord full price protection to subsisting engineering contracts without an escalation clause as on 8-2-1981 and supply of steel at international prices for all exports after 9-2-1981, no difficulty has been reported by the engineering exporters.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The items covered under the price protection scheme are as under:—

- (i) Pig Iron
- (ii) Billets/Blooms/Slabs
- (iii) Heavy Structural—Joists/Channels/Angles/Tees
- (iv) Light Structural—Joists/Channels/Angles/Tees
- (v) Rails
- (vi) B.P. Sheets
- (vii) G.P. Sheets
- (viii) M.S./C.R. Sheets/Coils
- (ix) H.R. Sheets/Coils
- (x) H.R. Skelp
- (xi) M.S. Rounds
- (xii) M.S. Wire Rods
- (xiii) Bar & Rods in Coils; and
- (xiv) M.S. Plates.

Shifting of Examination Centre of Sail from Rourkela to Calcutta

***508. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Examination Centre of Steel Authority of India Limited for recruitment of Executive Trainees has been shifted from Rourkela to Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). It is not correct that the examination centre was shifted from Rourkela to Calcutta. However, with effect from 1979, examination centres at several places, including Rourkela, were discontinued as a measure of economy and administrative convenience.

Supply of Cotton to Spinning Mills of Tamil Nadu at a Lower Price

***509. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have initiated any plan to supply cotton at a lower price to the spinning mills of Tamil Nadu with the objective to bring down the price of yarn there;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to take interest in implementing it with regard to the Spinning Mills of Kerala also?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). In order to meet the emergent situation in Tamilnadu in June 1981, the Cotton Corporation of India was asked to supply 8,000 bales of cotton at given prices to the National Textile Corporation. The National Textile Corporation was in turn required to supply hank yarn at predetermined prices to Director Handlooms Tamilnadu for making it available to Handloom Weavers. Recently, Government have allowed the import of about 49,700 bales of cotton from Pakistan. Since the price of this cotton is somewhat lower than local cotton, it has been decided that yarn manufactured therefrom will be supplied to weavers at predetermined prices. It is anticipated that over 30,000 bales will be available for supply of yarn to handloom weavers.