

With their small operations and limited jurisdiction the viability of the RRBs will be seriously affected if the cost structure becomes too high. State-wise variations will naturally occur in the pay scales of the staff of the RRBs. The salary structures available to the State Government staff differ from State to State. However, it is being ensured that the terms and service conditions of the staff operating within the same State are uniform.

There is no proposal to amend Section 17 of the RRBs Act.

MMTC deal with a French concern

*75. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has entered into a long-term deal with a French concern, Machinery for the import of 10,000 tonnes of aluminium in 1980-81;

(b) whether, according to prevailing prices, there is likely to be a loss of over Rs. 40 lakhs in this deal;

(c) whether this aluminium could have been procured from elsewhere on much cheaper rates;

(d) whether prescribed procedure had been followed in making this deal; and

(e) if not, the consideration lying with the Government in entering into this deal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation has entered into a long term quantity contract for supply of aluminium for three years with the

French concern, M/s LA SOCIETE DE VENTE DEL' ALUMINIUM, PECHINEY, Paris. The quantity to be imported in 1980-81 was 5,500 MT. The price is to be determined for each quarter in a year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Not applicable.

Expansion programme of Bhilai and Bokaro Steel plants

*76. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed expansion programmes with regard to Bhilai and Bokaro Steel Plants; and

(b) the outcome of the discussions held with Soviet Union recently regarding the assistance required for the above two steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) (i) *Bhilai*: The expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant from 2.5 M to 4 MT capacity is already under implementation. For further augmentation of its capacity through modernisation, a study has been entrusted to the Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Limited.

(ii) *Bokaro*: The expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant to 4 MT capacity is already under implementation. A proposal to further augment its capacity to 4.75 MT by utilisation of the in-built potentials and by installing certain additional facilities is being processed. A study for examination of the possibilities of further expansion beyond 4.75 MT has been entrusted to MECON.

(b) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the discussions in the Sixth meeting of Inter-Governmental Indo-USSR Commission for

Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation held in January, 1981. In the discussions, the work on the expansion of both the steel plants to 4 million tonnes which is already on was reviewed.

As regards expansion of Bhilai beyond 4 MT stage, certain feasibility studies as to the technical parameters in the light of the input position would be done by MECON as general consultants in cooperation with GIP-ROMEZ (Soviet) and further action would be taken thereafter.

Canalisation of imports of copper wire bar and copper wire rods

*77. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the canalisation of imports of copper wire bar and copper wire rods through Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation has made the actual user buyers to pay Rs. 3170 a tonne more in September, 1980 Rs. 1860 more in October, 1980 and Rs. 4030 more in November, 1980; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the same and whether de-canalisation would lead to saving in foreign exchange in the import of these commodities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) It is not likely that decanalisation will lead to import at lower prices as the advantage of the long-term contracts with producers may be lost and various importers would compete with each other for the commodities whose international market will tend to firm up.

Statement

Copper wire rods have been canalised through MMTC only from 6th

November, 1980. Till now, MMTC has not imported any copper wire rods. Before the canalisation, all imports have been through private trade.

MMTC imports copper wire bars on longterm contract with producers where the purchase price is based on the ruling international market price. Actual sale prices are determined by a pricing committee headed by the Chief Controller of Imports & Exports.

While taking into account the price paid by individual importers against REP Licences people ordinary compare and take only the CIF landed cost into account overlooking other factor costs, such as bank charges, godown rentals, interest and insurance charges, import duties, port clearing charges, handling charges, etc. If these fixed costs are taken into account, there will be practically no difference between the release price charged by MMTC and price ultimately paid for import against REP licences by actual user-buyers of the metal.

Tourist Hotels/Homes run by I.T.D.C. in Tamil Nadu

*78. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tourist hotels or homes run by the India Tourism Development Corporation in Tamil Nadu and their locations; and

(b) the details of the new such hotels or homes to be built during the calendar year 1981 in Tamil Nadu and their locations?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). Presently, the ITDC is operating 2 hotels in Tamil Nadu namely the Temple Bay Beach Resort at Mahabalipuram and Hotel Madurai Ashok, and three Travellers Lodges at Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur and Kanchipuram.