

(c) whether Government have a proposal to abolish death penalty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) There is no proposal to make such a study.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: In early two princely States of India had abolished death penalty; in 1981, France had abolished it and about 15 years ago, England had also abolished death penalty. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why, as he has stated that there is no proposal to make such a study, there is no proposal to study the subject when there is a demand from the people that death penalty has not been a deterrent.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): As far as the question of abolition of death penalty is concerned, this has been discussed many a time. But as yet we have not found the atmosphere conducive for that. But whenever we can do it, we will certainly consider it.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: My question was, what has been done by various other countries, why is it not being considered?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): I do not think our policy should be shaped by what other countries are doing. I am personally absolutely opposed to capital punishment. But when we discussed this, we could not take a decision because of opposition from many people. But we did take the view that while formerly murder was automatically given the death penalty, which could be commuted to life sentence on a mercy petition, now we would reverse the process and we should normally not recommend capital punishment unless there were special reasons for it. In many cases we receive requests from the State Govern-

ments in respect of specially heinous crimes.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: It appears very strange for the Prime Minister saying, "I am myself personally against capital punishment but my Government is in favour of capital punishment".

MR. SPEAKER: It is a question of democratic norm.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Not only my Government here, but State Governments as well.

Import of alloy and special steel in the country

*161. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of alloy and special steel was imported during the years 1980-81, 1981-82 and April-December, 1982;

(b) the rate of import duty charged during the said period;

(c) whether it is a fact that lakhs of tons of indigenous products have been accumulated with the steel industries;

(d) whether it is also a fact that FICCI study suggests that it is necessary to protect indigenous producers from the onslaught of huge imports of alloy and special steel by either putting the item under the banned or restricted list or increasing import duty; and

(e) if so, the measures taken by Government in this regard to save the steel industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) Import of alloy steel including stainless steel during 1980-81 was 479538 tonnes. Data on imports during 1981-82 and April-December, 1982 are being collected.

(b) A Statement of the statutory rates of duty is laid on the Table of the House. Actual duty on an item will depend on

whether or not an exemption notification has issued in respect of a specific item.

(c) Stocks of alloy steel including stainless steel with mini steel plants and other alloy steel producers was about 44,000 tonnes on 1-1-1983.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) During the current year changes were affected in the import policy and the tariff structure to safeguard the interests of indigenous alloy steel producers.

Statement

The statutory rates of duty during 1980-81, 1981-82 and April-December, 1982 were as below :—

Import Tariff Heading No.	Item	Year		
		1980-81	1981-82	April.-Dec.'82
73.15(1)	Not elsewhere specified	60%+15%	60%+20%	300%+30%
73.15(2)	Coils for re-rolling, sheets, strips, plates of stainless steel.	300%+20%	300%+25%	300%+30%

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: The hon. Minister in reply to part (c) of the Question has stated:

"Stocks of alloy steel including stainless steel with mini steel plants and other alloy steel producers was about 44,000 tonnes on 1-1-1983."

May I know the action taken by the Government for its proper utilisation?

Secondly, the hon. Minister has replied to part (d) of the Question in the affirmative. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action has been taken to give protection to indigenous producers.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: So far as the first part of the question of the hon. Member is concerned, the mini steel plants have been permitted the requisite flexibility to diversify into production of all grades of carbon, alloy steel, stainless steel and heat resisting steel up to their licenced capacity.

As regards the second part of the question which relates to what action we have taken on the recommendations of the FICCI, the alloy steel producers were representing about heavy imports of alloy steel and poor order book position of indigenous producers. A study of FICCI

recommended inter-alia two things, that all alloy steel items may be put under the banned list on import duty may be raised.

We have taken the following measures:—

(i) Import duty has been raised from 60 to 85 per cent; and

(ii) Import policy for 1982-83 has been made more restrictive by taking the following measures :—

(a) Alloy steel bloom, billets, squares and rounds of 18 mm dia and above have been placed in the List of limited Permissible items; and

(b) Appendix 7 has been split into two Lists : Carbon steel and Alloy steel.

This will permit legitimate import of each category of steel but will not permit inter-changeability between these two categories.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: The Hon. Minister in his reply has said that during the current year changes were effected in the import policy and the tariff structure to safeguard the interests of indigenous alloy steel producers. I would like to know what action has been taken by Government

to give effect to this policy and the persons who were benefitted by it and from which date these changes were effected.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: It is a continuous process. We have taken different measures which I have submitted. The results will be seen in days to come.

SHRI S. T. QUADRI: The Hon. Minister in his reply has mentioned that the list of alloy steels imported into the country in the year, 1981-82 and up to 1983 (till date), is under compilation. I have been for the last two years asking for this information from various Ministries and I am sorry to say that till now no one knows in this country how much of alloy steel has been imported. I have demanded in this House that there should be a total ban on import of steels which are manufactured in the country. In view of the huge losses sustained by the indigenous industry and of the drain of foreign exchange by way of imports will the Hon. Minister please now consider putting a total ban on all the items of steel being manufactured in the country in the coming policy announcement to be made in April this year?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: So far as the first part of the question regarding non-availability of the data for 1981-82 and April-December, 1982 is concerned, my Ministry is not the one which compiles this data. Some other connected Ministries and their Departments are doing this job. We ourselves should like to have it. I understand even the Ministry of Commerce is also handicapped.

SHRI S. T. QUADRI: There is no co-ordination in this. The Hon. Minister has not answered my question.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: We are doing our best. I plead helplessness in compiling this data.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: I would like to know whether in view of the accumulation of alloy steel and other steels Government is going to totally ban the import and whether this accumulated alloy steel and other steel could be exported to other countries to

save our steel industry and for the improvement of the steel industry?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: I have already replied to the first part of the question. As to the second part of the question regarding the export of steel, if there are export orders, we will certainly export.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ट्रकों के चॉसिस को पुनः बिक्री पर रोक का हटाना

*143. श्री ब्या राम शाक्य : क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या डेढे वर्ष पूर्व केन्द्र सरकार ने एक आदेश द्वारा ट्रकों तथा बसों के नये चॉसिसों को पुनः बिक्री पर रोक लगाई थी जिसके परिणामस्वरूप ऐसी चॉसिसों की कालाबाजारी बन्द हो गई थी;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि सरकार ने दिसम्बर, 1982 में यह आदेश वापस ले लिया था; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो यह आदेश वापस लेने का क्या आधार है?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी):

(क) से (ग). वाणिज्यिक गाड़ियों की भारी बकाया मांग और उनकी बिक्री तथा वितरण में हेरा-फेरी का रोकने की आवश्यकता का ध्यान में रखते हुए वाणिज्यिक गाड़ियों की प्रारम्भिक खरीद की तारीख में 2 वर्ष की अवधि तक उनकी पुनः बिक्री पर रोक लगाने के लिए अप्रैल, 1981 में एक आदेश जारी किया गया था। इस बात का देखते हुए कि उत्पादन में वृद्धि होने से वाणिज्यिक गाड़ियां आसानी से मिल रही हैं, यह आदेश दिसम्बर, 1982 में रद्द कर दिया गया था।

Marketing of products of steel authority of India

*144. **SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH:**

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has decided to throw open