

**Higher rates of Iron and Steel charged from Small-Scale Industries than those from Large-Scale Industries**

\*795. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether rates of iron and steel materials for supply to small-scale industries are much higher than those charged from large-scale units;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to reduce the rates of the material meant for small-scale industries so as to bring them at par with those of large-scale units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA): (a) to (c). Prices of iron and steel materials supplied to small scale units are higher only in the case of those categories in which supplies from the steel plants have been channeled through the State Small Industries Corporations. Since steel moves from the plants only in wagons and the minimum wagon load has increased with introduction of newer bulk wagons, not all parties in the small scale sector can secure despatches for wagon loads at a time.

Government have accepted in principle that supplies channeled through the SSICs for these reasons should be available to the units at about the same price as the others getting supplies direct. The manner in which the Government's decision can best be implemented is under examination, and decisions will be finalised shortly.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that those people who get a thousand tonnes every quarter have to

pay Rs. 80 per tonne less than those people who purchase only five tonnes or ten tonnes a quarter? Is that in keeping with the socialistic pattern of society?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM): As we have indicated in the reply, Government have accepted the position which the hon. Member himself has been pressing for quite some time, that the prices of steel for the small-scale industries should be the same, even though it is canalised through the SSIC. The recommendation made by the Group that we have appointed is that the extra handling charges which are charged by the SSIC should be spread over the price of steel for everyone, so that the final price when it lands in the hands of whether the small-scale industry or the large industry will be the same, and this is what I hope the hon. Member would appreciate.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Expulsion threats to Indians in Fiji**

\*783. SHRI VARKEY GEORGE:  
SHRI RAM SHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the threats to Indians in Fiji of getting the same treatment as the Asians received in Uganda;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c). There are no such threats