

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday December 15, 1972/
Agrahayana 24, 1894 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Raising of Prices of Stainless Steel Sheets by M.M.T.C.

*461. SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the M.M.T.C. had raised the price of stainless steel sheets by more than 100 per cent;

(b) the reasons for the sudden rise in the price; and

(c) whether this price rise has adversely affected the priority and small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY: I am not fully convinced. According to a letter from the President, Pondicherry Small-Scale Industries Association, in the third quarter of 1972, i.e. July to September the price of stainless sheets was Rs. 17.89 per Kg. But during the last quarter, i.e. October to December, they have suddenly raised the price to Rs. 28 per Kg. This amounts to almost a cent per cent rise. I would like the minister to explain the reasons for the sudden spurt.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: The question was whether the price had risen by 100 per cent and the answer was 'no'. On 1st October 1971 the CIF price of

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imported stainless steel was Rs. 7103 per tonne and on 1st October 1972 it had risen to Rs. 8234 per tonne. So, the increase is Rs. 1000 per tonne; it is not double.

SHRI K. KODANDA RAMI REDDY: May I know what control is being exercised against exorbitant prices at which imported stainless steel sheets both against export entitlement and by MMTC are being sold in the market?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: The price is fixed by a committee presided over by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports as in the case of other raw materials imported by the public sector agencies. Then quotas are allotted and it goes only to actual users.

SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA: May I know whether it is a fact that the producers of utensils charge the price keeping in view the black market price of stainless steel sheets and if so, would Government be prepared to give some relief to consumers or fix some percentage of the import licences for giving utensils at controlled rates?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: As a matter of fact, the price of utensils is not controlled by us. There are two channels of import of stainless steel— one through M.M.T.C. and the other against export entitlement. As far as M.M.T.C. is concerned, it charges a nominal profit of 3 per cent or so.

Change in criteria for grant of Assistance to States for Scarcity Relief Work

*462. SHRI ANNASAHAB GOTKHINDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the need for change in the pattern of Central assistance for drought relief to the States has been brought to the notice of Government;