

and whether in view of that, the import policy is going to be affected or not and whether he is going to make any arrangement to stop such damages in future.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : It is true that there has been considerable loss to wheat crop particularly the harvested crop as a result of untimely rains. But the production has so substantially increased that market arrivals everywhere are much more than last year's. The procurement has also been heavy. Therefore, there is no reason whatever to change our policy regard to imports. Even in Bihar market arrivals are heavier. In Uttar Pradesh the market arrivals are almost four to five times of last year's.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister should be very brief in his reply. Say, 'Yes' or 'No'. Don't make it a debating hour.

Shortage of Alloy Steel

*694. **SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research had forecast in May, 1971 an actual shortage of almost all categories of alloy steel in the country till the end of 1976 ; and

(b) if so, the main points thereof and the steps taken by Government in getting the alloy steel shortage removed in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM) : (a) The National Council of Applied Economic Research have been commissioned by Government to estimate the demand for Steel by 1975 and 1980, both for mild steel and Alloy and Special Steel. Their final report is still awaited.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF : I would like to know whether the Government has prescribed any specific period within which the National Council of Applied

Economic Research was to submit its report.

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM : We expect it within a short time, within a month or so.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Defence has decided to set up a special alloy steel plant in Kanpur and the project report has been submitted.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Banerjee, this is a separate question. You wanted to stop the train at Kanpur ; now you are trying to get another thing.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I would like to know whether he will lend his support to this.

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM : It is a separate question.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I expected.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Is the Government going to increase the tonnage of Durgapur alloy steel production ?

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM : A decision has been taken in principle to expand the production in the Alloy Steel Plant in Durgapur from 100 to 300 thousand tonnes and the Project Report is now under preparation by the Central Engineering Designs Bureau of the Hindustan Steel.

Damage to Kharif Grain due to Storage and Transport Problems in Punjab and Haryana

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*695. **SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN :**
SHRI S. R. DAMANI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether serious storage problems have arisen in Punjab and Haryana due to