

Supply of Billets by Bhilai Steel Plant

*702. Shri Virendrakumar Shah: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bhilai Steel Project is reluctant to supply billets of uniform length of 6 metres to the reollers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a consignment of 10,000 tonnes of billets, more than 90 per cent of which conform to the above length, has been loaded in the Bombay Dock, meant for export to South Korea;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no additional charge was levied by the Bhilai Steel Project for the above length of billets; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and its repercussion on the internal buyers?

The Minister of Steel Mines and Metals (Dr. Chenna Reddy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). In the present case the export price was a consolidated price, arrived at after taking into consideration all factors, such as the cost of production, internal market situation, international prices, the necessity to earn foreign exchange etc. As the export contracts were arrived at keeping the internal market situation in mind, there should not be any repercussion on the internal buyers.

Handloom Industry in Kerala

*703. Shri P. Gopalan:
Shrimati Suseela Gopalan:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri C. K. Chakrapani:
Shri P. Ramamurti:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that handloom industry in Kerala especially in Cannanore is in acute crisis;

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(b) the actual unemployment position in this industry in Kerala alone;

(c) whether the State Government have submitted any proposals for saving the industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to tide over the crisis in this industry?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shaif Qureshi): (a) No, Sir. However certain difficulties are faced by the handloom industry in Kerala including Cannanore.

(b) No assessment has been made.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) the following step have been taken by the State Government to help the handloom industry:

(i) A Handloom Finance Corporation has been organised by the State Government to make available assistance to the private sector.

(ii) Handloom Weavers Apex Co-operative Society has been given a cash credit accommodation of Rs. 20 lakhs by the Reserve Bank of India for yarn trading in 1967-68.

(iii) The Apex Society has also been given an over-draft accommodation of Rs. 15 lakhs from the Kerala State Co-operative Bank.

(iv) It is proposed to set up two more co-operative spinning mills in the State to make available more yarn for the handloom weavers.

Cashew Industry in Kerala

*704. Shrimati Suseela Gopalan:
Shri P. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cashew Industry in Kerala is in acute crisis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;