

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b). An order issued on January 25, 1964 blacklisting M/s. Bharat Barrel & Drum Manufacturing Co. (P) Ltd. has been kept in abeyance with effect from 23-6-66 in compliance with the orders of the then Punjab High Court.

(c) No, Sir.

फ्रांस द्वारा मूंगफली तथा मूंगफली के तेल का आयात

*584. श्री रघुबीर सिंह शास्त्री : क्या वाणिज्य मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि फ्रांस ने भारत से मूंगफली तथा मूंगफली के आयात पर से सारे प्रतिबन्ध हटा दिये हैं;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि एक फ्रांसीसी प्रतिनिधि मण्डल ने जो हाल ही में भारत आया था, भारत से मूंगफली तथा मूंगफली के तेल के आयात के बारे में बातचीत की है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस मामले में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय से उप-मन्त्री (श्री मोहम्मद शफी कुरेशी) : (क) फ्रांसीसी सरकार ने मूंगफली की गिरी तथा तेल के आयात पर से प्रतिबन्ध 12 जनवरी, 1968 से हटा दिये हैं ।

(ख) भारत से मूंगफली तथा मूंगफली के तेल के आयात के बारे में बातचीत करने के लिये, हाल में कोई सरकारी फ्रांसीसी प्रतिनिधि मण्डल भारत नहीं आया ।

(ग) इस वर्ष मूंगफली की अच्छी फसल को देखते हुए सरकार ने निर्यात के लिये काफी मात्रा में एच० पी० एस० किस्म की मूंगफली की गिरी की निकासी की है ।

PRODUCTION OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

*585. DR. RANEN SEN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a fall in the production of commercial vehicles in 1967;

(b) if so, the extent of fall in production;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the production of commercial vehicles ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of commercial vehicles during 1967 was 31,462 Nos. as compared to 35,159 Nos. during 1966.

(c) The fall in production of commercial vehicles is a result of the fall in demand.

(d) The curbs on bank advances for the purchase of commercial vehicles have been relaxed. This step, together with the various other fiscal measures adopted by Government to revive the economy, are expected to stimulate demand leading to increase in production of commercial vehicles.

ALLOCATION FOR IMPORT OF WOOL

*586. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance made available to his Ministry an allocation of Rs. 12 crores for imports of wool during the period from October, 1967 to September, 1968;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only Rs. 6 crores out of the above allocation has so far been released to the industry for the period from October, 1967 to March, 1968;

(c) whether it is further a fact that the practice of his Ministry for the last 10 years has been to make allocations to the Woollen Industry on an annual basis;

(d) if so, the reasons for the change during the current year; and

(c) whether the remaining sum of Rs. 6 crores will be released during the second half of the current year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) to (c). The Ministry of Finance made an allocation of Rs. 6 crore for the import of wool for the period October 1967 to March, 1968 and this has been released to the industry for the same period. As the foreign exchange allocation was released only for a period of six months licences could not be issued to the industry on an annual basis. The allocation to the industry for the period April 1968 to September 1968 will be announced shortly.

INVESTMENT IN THREE PUBLIC SECTOR STEEL PLANTS

*587. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment made so far in each of the Steel Plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bhilai;

(b) the amount of additional loans given so far to each of the above three plants;

(c) the amount of loss so far suffered since their inception by each of the above plants; and

(d) the reasons for such loss in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY) : (a) The total investment based on Government funds (equity and loan) in the Steel Plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bhilai as on 31-3-1967 is as under :—

	<i>in million rupees</i>
Durgapur Steel Plant	Rs. 2467
Rourkela Steel Plant (excluding Fertiliser Plant)	Rs. 3390
Bhilai Steel Plant	Rs. 3291

(b) No additional loans have been given upto the year 1966-67.

(c) The plant-wise cumulative loss upto 31st March, 1967 is as under :

	<i>in million rupees</i>
Durgapur Steel Plant	352.82
Rourkela Steel Plant (excluding Fertiliser Plant)	288.47
Bhilai Steel Plant	92.04

(d) The reasons for losses are many and varied. Some of these are basic and the others differ from year to year. The basic reasons include the fact that Steel Industry has a longer gestation period and it takes time for the commissioned units to reach rated capacity, high capital cost, expenditure on built-in-capacity at the one-million tonne stage (which will be utilised during the current expansion), heavy expenditure on townships including provision of educational, medical and other facilities, heavy capital-related charges and the current price structure which is largely based on a much lower capital block. The main reasons for losses during the year 1966-67 were as under :—

- (1) Slackness in the market demand for steel leading to a drop of Rs. 78 million in the gross sales of the Company as compared to the year 1965-66.
- (2) The sluggish market conditions compelled the Company to vary their product-mix and to sell more of intermediary products at a comparatively uneconomic cost.
- (3) Rise in the cost of raw materials.
- (4) Post-devaluation increase in the cost of imported stores and spares.
- (5) Break-down/stoppages of certain plant units like the Sintering Plant and Purnapani Lime Stone Quarry at Rourkela and the Coke Ovens at Durgapur Steel Plant.

मध्य प्रदेश में छोटी कार परियोजना तथा अन्य औद्योगिक योजनाएं

*588. श्री गं० च० वीक्षित : क्या औद्योगिक विकास तथा समवाय-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने राज्य में छोटी कार परियोजना स्थापित करने तथा अन्य औद्योगिक योजनाएं आरम्भ करने के बारे में, जिनमें सीमेंट कारखाने भी शामिल हैं, केन्द्रीय सरकार को कुछ योजनाएं भेजी हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इनका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?