

(b) whether Government are aware that certain export oriented leather footwear manufacturers and actual users are indulging in unfair practices of importing polyurethane foam under the cloak of plastic sheets or plastic sponge sheets notwithstanding the fact that indigenous manufacturers have capacity to meet their requirements;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government against these individuals; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to checkmate this tendency ?

THE DEPUTY-MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Certain instances of import have been reported to Government. On verification, Customs have reported that they allowed import, on technical advice that the item belonged to the class of plastic sponges, import of which was permissible against export of leather footwear and leather travel goods under the erstwhile special export promotion scheme for finished leather and leather manufactures.

(c) and (d). The matter is being enquired into. It is also being examined so that loopholes, if any, are plugged.

MINING AND ALLIED MACHINERY CORPORATION, DURGAPUR

***866. SHRI S. R. DAMANI :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the expert team appointed by Government to examine the working of the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation, Durgapur has pointed out a number of organizational weaknesses in the Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the other shortcomings to which the attention of Government has been drawn; and

(c) whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the report of the expert team and action proposed to be taken thereon ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The need for strengthening the planning, progressing and design organisations as also to ensure better co-ordination between the working of the different departments of the Plant has been pointed out by the expert team.

(b) Lack of advance planning for production, delay in finalisation of designs and drawings, low labour productivity and lack of adequate skill on the part of the workers are some of the other shortcomings to which the attention of the Government has been drawn by the team.

(c) The recommendations made by the expert team are being examined and appropriate action is being taken to implement them to the extent practicable. Government have no proposal under consideration to lay the report and the action to be taken thereon on the Table of the House.

MACHINE TOOLS FACTORY IN CEYLON

***867. SHRI S. A. AGADI :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Machine Tools have offered to set up a Machine Tools Factory in Ceylon;

(b) if so, whether Government was consulted before making any such offer;

(c) the terms and conditions and the financial implications of the scheme; and

(d) the details about management, control and skilled and unskilled labourers to be employed therein ?

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

(a) and (b). At the request of Ceylon Steel Corporation Limited, Hindustan Machine Tools Limited are preparing a feasibility report for establishing a small Machine Tools Factory in Ceylon. Government have been kept informed and approved the visit of the Company's team to Ceylon.