

applied for permission for setting up of new units which was not agreed to, as they have yet to implement substantial expansion licences earlier issued to them.

(d) A decision has been taken to permit setting up of eight new units for manufacture of automobile tyres and tubes.

Price of Coca-Cola

*730. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :
SHRI S. A. AGADI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the increase in the price of Coca-Cola since 1968 upto October, 1970 ;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the price of Coca-Cola ; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) The price of a bottle of coca cola during the years 1968-69 was 40 paise per bottle. During 1970 (March-July), it was 45 paise per bottle, and after July, 1970, it is 42 paise per bottle.

(b) and (c). At present Government are not considering imposing any statutory control on soft drinks since it is not included in the list of essential commodities. However, with a view to examine the possibilities of reduction in the prices, various factors including the cost of production, margin of profit, retailers, commission, etc. were gone into with the various soft drink manufacturers and they were persuaded to reduce their price by three paise per bottle.

Permits for long distance haulage to road Transport Companies

*732. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to boosting their

sagging revenues, the Indian Railways have requested the Regional Transport Authorities not to issue permits for long distance haulage to road transport companies ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government are aware that road transport has succeeded in capturing a large part of the high-rated goods traffic for long distance haulage on accounts of its ability to offer quick door to door service to the customer ; and

(d) whether Government also propose to formulate a scheme to offer the customer door to door service ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Railways already provide door to door services like "Containerised Service", "Freight Forwarders Services", Street delivery and collection services at selected stations.

Visit by Soviet Minister to Bokaro

*733. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Goldin, the Minister of Steel of Soviet Union, recently visited Bokaro ;

(b) if so, on which dates he visited Bokaro ;

(c) what are his findings about the working of the plant ; and

(d) what kind of further assistance would the Soviet Union extend to the Plant and the assurance given by Mr. Goldin in that respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) to (d). Mr. Goldin, Minister for Construction of Heavy Industries in U. S. S. R., is also the President of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society and his recent visit to

India was in this latter capacity. He had expressed a desire to visit Bhilai and Bokaro and accordingly, had visited Bokaro on the 10th and 11th November, 1970. The Bokaro Management took advantage of his visit to the Plant to discuss with him practical problems of construction of the Steel Plant and also underlined the importance of delivery of refractories by the USSR in accordance with the agreed schedules. Mr. Goldin was impressed with the progress of construction at Bokaro and observed that a good rate of progress was being maintained and said that he felt that the construction of the Plant would be completed according to the existing schedule.

Import of Alloy and Special Steel

*734. SHRI R. K. BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether alloy and special steel makers in the public sector are greatly worried at the huge import plant for saleable steel items;

(b) if so, what is the import policy of steel announced recently by Government;

(c) whether it is a fact that during the last three years remarkable progress has been made in the indigenous production of alloy and special steels in the electric steel making sector;

(d) if so, the quantum of alloy and special steel produced during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the reasons for the import of alloy and whether it is contemplated to revise the import policy of alloy?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). Some apprehensions were expressed that the special import policy announced in September, 1970, might be interpreted to permit import of alloy steel billets of forging quality. Necessary action is being taken to clarify this point. A copy of Public Notice No. 140 announcing the special policy is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4573/70].

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Production by electric furnaces alone was:

1967-68	52,000 tonnes
1968-69	.. 97,000 tonnes
1969-70	.. 132,000 tonnes

and total alloy and special steel production was:

1968-69	200,346 tonnes
1969-70	261,061 tonnes

(e) Import is allowed for specified categories and qualities of steel to ensure supply of essential raw materials to actual users based on their requirements which cannot be met by domestic production. No change in the policy is contemplated at present.

Shortage of Printing Paper for Text-Books

*735. SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH:
SHRI MUHAMMAD SHERIFF:
SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item in Hindustan Times dated the 15th November, 1970 where the Federation of Publishers and Booksellers Association have warned of text-book shortage in the next academic session due to the non-availability of white printing paper;

(b) whether it is a fact that paper mills have increased the price of paper since the decontrol in May last; and

(c) what remedial measures Government propose to take to avoid this shortage of books?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). After the decontrol of paper in May, 1968 the paper industry increased the prices by about Rs. 250/- per tonne and again