

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