

due to demonstrations, the workers of the Steel Melting Shop went on strike from 26th September, 1970. The Management was compelled to declare a lockout in the Shop which lasted till the 20th October, 1970. The workers, however, continued to remain absent from work even after the lockout had been lifted and normalcy was restored only after an agreement had been signed with the Union on the 31st October, 1970. The attendance in other sections of the Plant was generally normal.

Accumulation of Steel Stocks with Stockyards in Bombay

*750. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a huge accumulation of steel stocks with stockyards in Bombay ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether there have been complaints from trade and small users of inadequate and irregular supply of steel ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure proper distribution of steel to trade and small users ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d). As the availability of steel is well below the requirements in the country, representations have been received from several users and traders about inadequate and irregular supply. In the revised procedure of distribution, the available production is mostly supplied to actual users on the basis of the priorities accorded by the Steel Priority Committee. A small percentage is being supplied to traders and stockists. The Steel Priority Committee is giving due weightage to the requirements of the Small Scale Industries Corporation or Raw Materials Depots set up by some State Administrations. Another Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Minister to consider

allocation of steel to trade and other allied matters.

Supply of Imported Steel to Small Scale Industries

4574. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether suggestions have been made by several State Governments for supply of imported steel to small scale units ; and

(b) if so, the decision, taken by Government thereof ?

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

(b) An import of 58,670 metric tonnes of steel sheets and plates has been arranged through Hindustan Steel Ltd. in bulk, against a foreign exchange ceiling of Rs. 10 crores for supply to Small Scale Industries exclusively in the country. An import of 2000 metric tonnes of Stainless Steel Sheets suitable, among other items, for the manufacture of utensils has been arranged by the MMTC for supply to small scale industries. Import of various licensable categories of steel is also allowed to small scale units as actual users in accordance with the import licensing policy. The actual users under the import licensing policy for 1970-71 have further been allowed an additional import for certain categories of steel equal to 50% of their consumption during the last year *viz.* 1969-70.

Setting up of Apex Bodies in States for Giving Credit for Development of Small Scale Industries in Backward Regions

4575. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether suggestions have been made by several State Governments for setting up of apex bodies in each State for giving credit to