

Loss in I.T.D.C. Hotel at Srinagar

9493. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hotel run by I.T.D.C. in Srinagar is running loss; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to prevent such losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) ITDC does not have any hotel in Srinagar.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Expansion of Sponge Iron Units

9494. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal to expand sponge iron units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the production capacity of sponge iron units in the country as on 31st March, 1990; and

(d) the amount of investment made on the expansion of sponge iron units so far?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The production capacity of

the sponge iron units in the country as on 31st March, 1990, was 1.4 million tonnes. It is planned that the production of sponge iron in the country be increased to 5 million tonnes by the end of the 8th Plan.

(d) On an average the investment required on sponge iron projects is around Rs. 6,000/- per tonne of installed capacity as at present.

Amendment of New Import-Export Policy

9495. SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently declared Import-Export Policy for 1990-93 is being amended; and

(b) if so, the changes proposed and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) and (b). Review of Import-Export Policy is a continuous process and necessary corrective measures are taken, as and when the situation so warrants, after taking into consideration when the situation so warrants, after taking into consideration all the relevant factors and keeping in view, the needs of the economy.

[Translation]

Manganese Reserves in Dongari, Maharashtra

9496. PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether manganese ore is available in abundance in Lohar Dongari in Garhchirauli

district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity thereof;

(c) whether the manganese ore mines in the above area have been closed; and

(d) if so, whether there is proposal to reopen them?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Hotel Accommodation at Tourist Centres and Hill Stations

9497. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourism is the largest source of earning foreign exchange in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the scarcity of sufficient number of hotel accommodation at tourist centres and hill stations; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or being taken to provide more hotel accommodation at such places all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) Tourism is the largest net foreign exchange earner in India.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Central Government have announced several financial and fiscal incentives/concessions for attracting private

investment in various segments of tourism industry, including hotel accommodation. A Tourism Finance Corporation has also been set up to meet the financial requirements of the industry.

MPEDA Scheme to Supply Diesel at Subsidised Rate

9498. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All Kerala Mechanised Fishing Boat Operators' Association has submitted a memorandum to supply diesel at a subsidised rate to fishing boats and trawlers;

(b) whether the Marine Products Export Development Authority (M.P.E.D.A) has a scheme to give diesel at a subsidised rate to fishing vessels; and

(c) if so, when this scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Marine Products Export Development Authority's proposal in this regard has been forwarded to the Administrative Ministry, viz., Ministry of Food Processing Industries for finalisation by them in consultation with the concerned Ministry.

[*Translation*]

Low Power and High Power Transmitters in Maharashtra

9500. SHRI HARISHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of low power and