

bushes are reported to have been uprooted by the workers and other crops are now being cultivated by them. Information on exact number of workers is not available.

(c) Does not arise.

Abolition/Reduction of Export Duty on Iron-Ore

837. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has abolished the export duty on iron-ore from some ports;

(b) if so, the name of such ports;

(c) whether Government have also reduced the export duty on iron-ore from some other ports; and

(d) if so, the details of those ports and the extent of export duty abolished from those ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (d). Export duty is levied on commodities and is not related to the port through which export takes place. With effect from 17.3.85, iron-ore when exported out of India is fully exempt from payment of duty.

Estimated Cost of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

838. SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the estimated cost of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is required to be revised in view of the targetted date of the completion of the first phase by 1987-88 and second phase by 1991-92;

(b) if so, whether the proposals submitted by the consultants in this regard are being considered by Government; and

(c) the total amounts proposed to be spent during 1985-86 and the subsequent years for the completion of the first stage of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant as per the schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (c). A revised

cost estimate of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Project is at present under preparation by the project authorities in consultation with their Consultants taking into account the revised construction schedules and escalation in prices since the earlier cost estimates were prepared based on end of 4th Quarter 1981 prices.

The amounts to be spent in 1985-86 and subsequent years would depend on the availability of funds as well as the progress of work.

Demand for Free Trade Zone for Visakhapatnam

839. SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for creating Free Trade Zone for Visakhapatnam port;

(b) if so, the facilities available there;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on the representation; and

(d) whether Government have since cleared Free Trade Zones in respect of Madras, Bombay and some other ports?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government indicated that land, water, electricity and transport infrastructure of port and rail are available.

(c) and (d). The Government recently sanctioned establishment of four new export processing zones at Madras, Falta (West Bengal), Cochin and NOIDA (U.P.). Performance of these four zones would be watched before the Government consider establishment of any other new zone.

Jute Policy

840. SHRI ZAINUL ABEDIN : Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of Government on jute; and