

**SAARC Foreign Ministers Meeting**

506. SHRI G.S. BASAVARJU:  
SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI  
KHAN:  
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:  
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH:  
SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU:  
SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP  
SINGH:  
SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA:  
SHRIMATI BASAVARJES-  
WARI:  
SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:  
CH. KHURSHID AHMED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Foreign Minister's meeting scheduled to commence from July 1, 1989 in Islamabad had to be postponed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) when the meeting is now to take place and the steps taken or contemplated by Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (c). The seventh session of the SAARC Council of Ministers, scheduled to have been held on July 1-2, 1989 in Islamabad was postponed consequent to Sri Lanka informing the host country Pakistan of its decision not to participate in the meeting. Since the Council of Ministers would not have been able to take any decisions in the absence of any single member country, this meeting was postponed to a date to be decided after mutual consultations between all the members States.

**Setting up of Small furnaces in Private Sector for the production of Pig Iron**

507. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:  
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJES-  
WARI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government proposes to allow private sector to set up small furnaces to make pig iron on the lines of China and Brazil;

(b) if so, the details in this regards; and

(c) to what extent it is likely to boost pig iron production and fulfill its demand in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pig iron industry has been de-licensed. But since no project has yet been cleared in respect of import of technology and capital equipments, details are not available.

(c) Depending on the number of furnaces which are installed, the gap in the country's demand could be met through imports.

**Opinion Poll among DTC Commuters**

508. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:  
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 78 per cent commuters have expressed dissatisfaction with the working of Delhi Transport Corporation as per the findings of the opinion poll conducted by the Indian Institute of Public