

4. Clyde Expro Pic., U.K.
5. Samson International, USA
6. Compagnie Geofinanciere, France.
7. China Petroleum Technology Development Corporation, Peoples; Republic of China.
8. Joshi Technologies, USA
9. BNG Holdings, Canada.
10. Ruspetrol, USA
11. Berry Creek Resources inc., Canada.

**Goods Transport Through
International Sea-Routes**

1280. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA : will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to open goods transport sector through international sea-routes for private companies;

(b) if so, the number of the companies which have submitted proposals in this regard;

(c) the criteria for rates of loading of goods;

(d) whether the willing companies would have to pay the registration fee for approval of the transportation of goods and platform charges for loading and unloading of the goods; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT:

(a) The goods transport is already open for private sector shipping companies. It has been decided to de-licence such of the liner routes where existing shipping companies do not operate at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The freight rate is decided by market forces.

(d) and (e) Do not arise, in view of the reply given at (a) above.

[English]

Foreign Investors in Mining

1281. SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry has set up an advisory committee to assist foreign investors in the field of mining;

(b) if so, the composition and objectives

of the Committee, and

clearances

(c) the steps being taken to attract foreign investment in the mining sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) (a) and (b) An advisory committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines has been set up to assist public sector undertakings and subordinate offices under the Ministry of Mines who have to deal with foreign investors to ensure better co-ordination and common approach on policy issues pertaining to proposals received from foreign investors for collaborative and joint venture agreements. The committee includes the Director General of Geological Survey of India, Controller General of Indian Bureau of Mines, Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of Hindustan Zinc Ltd Hindustan copper Limited Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd National Aluminium Company Ltd, Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd, Managing Director of Bharat Gold Mines Ltd Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Mines and representative of the concerned State Government as and when required. Director in the Ministry of Mines is the Member—Secretary

(c) The liberalisation measures have been widely publicised in the country and abroad through our Embassies. An International Round Table Conference on Foreign Investment in Exploration and Mining in India was held in April, 1994. Procedural reforms have been introduced by the Central and State Governments to speed up

Abolition of Octroi

1282 SHRIMATI CHANDRAPRABHA URS Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether Jyothi Basu Committee has given its report on Octroi Abolition,

(b) if so, whether the Committee has suggested that unless alternative sources of revenue are made, the octroi cannot be abolished, and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Committee observed that the Octroi is protected by Entry-52 of the State List in the Constitution and there was no question of its abolition

(c) In view of the Constitutional provisions observed by the Committee, no further action on the part of the Government is called for

11.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 2, 1994/ Sravana 11, 1916 (Saka)