

has conducted any survey to assess the availability of iron ore deposits in Tamil Nadu during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling Activities at Main Port

6629 SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the income earned by the Ministry from main port trusts of India such as Kandla, Tuticorin, Madras, Bombay and Cochin;

(b) the number of incidents of seizure of smuggled goods on the main ports; and

(c) the action taken by the department against those employees and officers of port trusts, who were found involved in these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) This Ministry does not directly earn any income from the Major Port Trusts. The income generated by the Port trusts remain with them. During the year 1994-95 the total operating income and finance & miscellaneous income of the major ports of Kandla, Tuticorin, Madras, Bombay and Cochin was Rs. 1132.56 crores (provisional).

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Aluminium Production

6630. SHRI GOPI.NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the production and consumption of aluminium in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the indigenous production of aluminium is insufficient to meet the country's requirement;

(c) if so, whether aluminium is being imported to meet the demand-supply gap;

(d) whether the Madras Aluminium Company and the Belgaun Aluminium Smelter have been closed down; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) and (b). The production and approximate consumption of primary

aluminium in the country during the last three years is indicated below :

Year	Production	(Unit : tonnes)
		Domestic Consumption
1992-93	4,84,913	3,70,000
1993-94	4,64,718	4,10,000
1994-95 (Provisinal)	4,80,262	4,71,500*

* Assuming a 15% growth in demand.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). The Madras Aluminium Company Limited (MALCO) being a sick unit is not in production. The Belgaun Smelter of India Aluminium Company Limited (INDAL) was shut down since August, 1992 due to steep increase in power tariff but recently some pots have been re-energised.

[Translation]

Investment in Shipping Sector

6631. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the total capital investment made in Shipping sector during the last three years as a result of liberalised policies of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Investment to the tune of 1334.69 million US \$ has been made both in the private sector as also the public sector during the last 3 years, i.e. from 1991-92 to 1994-95, as per the records maintained by Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Limited and Shipping Corporation of India Limited.

[English]

Ceiling on Railway Freight

6632. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had put up a proposal to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for abolition of the existing ceiling on railway freight so that the main steel producers — Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) — can charge from their consumers;

(b) the genesis of this freight ceiling abolition against the backdrop of the abolition of the freight equalisation scheme for steel projects in January 1992; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to benefit the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c). After deregulation of pricing and distribution of steels, the main producers are charging actual freight upto the stockyards or freight element as existed under the earlier Freight Equalisation Scheme whichever is lower. The extra burden on this account is being borne by the main producers themselves. The main steel producers have stated that with the reduction of duties on steel imports and increased competition from doemstic producers, the freight ceiling only on the main producers places them at a disadvantage. They have therefore represented that the main producers should be allowed to charge freight on actuals. The matter is under examination.

Vehicular Pollution

6633. SHRI M.G. REDDY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the pollution under check (PUC) rule is not applicable to diesel vehicles;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the mechanism by which the pollution caused by diesel vehicles would be kept under check?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

House Building Advance Limit

6634. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the maximum house building advance limits for different categories of Central Government employees;
- (b) the manner in which these limits compare with the prevailing housing advance levels of the corresponding categories in the banking industry; and
- (c) the anomalies, if any, and in what manner the Government propose to remove them and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) According to the house building Advance Rules the maximum advance admissible to a Central Government employee is his 50 months' pay or Rs. 2.50 lakhs whichever is less. There is no categorisation, as such, among the Central Government employees on the basis of the post held etc.

(b) As per the information furnished by Ministry of Finance the maximum limits for grant of House Building Advance to various categories of staff in the public sector banks are as follows :

Category of staff	Maximum limit of HBA
1. Subordinate Staff	Rs. 1.00 Lakh
2. Clerical Cadre	Rs. 1.50 Lakh
3. Officers in JMGS-I	Rs. 2.00 Lakh
4. Officers in MMGS-II and above	Rs. 2.50 Lakh

Though the admissibility of House Building Advance is reckoned differently in both the cases, the maximum amount of HBA admissible remains the same.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

Mining in Raipur

6635. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

- (a) the steps taken by the Government for mining of the newly discovered diamond and gold deposits in Raipur district of Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) whether any scheme is underway in Raipur for imparting technical training in mining; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Government Flats at Timarpur

6636. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Timarpur mein chaar so sarkari flaton ke jang se khokhle hone ki chetawani" appearing in the *Jansatta* dated April 22, 1995;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken thereon by the Government;
- (c) when these flats were constructed;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to inquire into the alleged laxity and connivance of the civil engineers with the contractors;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and