

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) to (c). Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have reported that the report on the special audit of the Slum Wing of DDA (now M.C.D.) and the observations of the Central Vigilance Commission thereon have been sent to their Anti-Corruption Department, for conducting an enquiry into irregularities and to fix responsibility for the lapses.

MOU With Australian Firm

2532. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited has signed MOU with Australian firm to explore gold and other minerals within Kudremukh region in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated quantity of gold and other minerals likely to be explored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c). The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 20th May, 1995 with Messrs Australian Indian Resources NL, Australia to explore the possibility of extracting gold and other minerals from the Iron Ore Tailings at Kudremukh and its surrounding regions in Karnataka State. The firm has collected samples from Kudremukh mines and tailing piles for testing, results of which will determine the estimated quantity of minerals likely to be explored.

Import of Steel

2533. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the annual import of steel at present;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce the import;

(c) if so, the projection made for 1995-96; and

(d) the year by which the steel import is likely to be stopped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The average annual import of steel during the last 5 years was about 12.7 lakh tonnes.

(b) to (d). Import of steel is now freely allowed. Quantities of import depend upon specific requirements to supplement indigenous availability both in terms of quantity and quality. Government has taken a number of steps to increase the production of steel. Public sector steel plants have taken up expansion and modernisation programme. Government is also encouraging the creation of additional production capacity in the private sector. With the increased availability of steel and improvement in quality, the import

of steel is expected to come down. However, some quantity of steel will always need to be imported, specially those grades and categories which are required only in small quantities in the country.

Clearance of Power Projects

2534. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a new power project had to get 48 clearances and now it had to get 46 clearances;

(b) whether the Government will consider to further reduce the number of clearances;

(c) if so, the time bound programme for the same; and

(d) the particulars of 46 clearances now necessary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) No, Sir. For obtaining techno-economic clearance for a thermal generation project, a developer has to furnish 17 clearances/certificates/documents to the Central Electricity Authority while for a hydro project, 10 clearances are required.

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

Licence Fee by Le Meridian Hotel

2535. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the annual rent or licence fee payable by the proprietors of Le Meridien Hotel for the Municipal land on which it stands;

(b) the arrears of payments in this regard as on 31st March, 1994;

(c) the legal steps taken for the recovery of the arrears, if any;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Hotel has occupied the side walks which were not included in the licence; and

(e) if so, the steps taken for the vacation of the encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) Annual licence fee payable by M/s C.J. International Hotel, i.e., Hotel Le Meridien in respect of plot licenced to them is Rs.2.68 crores or 21% of the gross turnover whichever is higher.

(b) As reported by the NDMC, a sum of Rs.30,31,95,007.69 is due from hotel upto 31.3.94.

(c) As the hotel is reportedly paying regular instalments to the Local Body, no legal action is contemplated.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Investment Made by Pepsi Company

2536. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :