

Import of Ferro-silicon and Ferro-chrome

6490. DR. B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import ferro-silicon and ferro-chrome this year on a priority basis to meet the immediate requirements of the steel plants;

(b) if so, whether the request for the import of these alloys was made by the Steel Authority of India;

(c) if so, whether Government have agreed to their request;

(d) the total quantity of the above, proposed to be imported; and

(e) from which country and on what condition?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) SAIL had requested the Government for approval for import of 12000 tonnes of ferro-silicon and 2370 tonnes of different grades of ferro-chrome during 1979-80. The Government allowed SAIL to import 6000 tonnes of ferro-silicon as a first instalment. Another quantity of 6000 tonnes of ferro-chrome has been in accordance for import during 1980-81 thus making a total of 12000 tonnes of ferro-silicon to be imported during 1979-80 and 1980-81.

(e) SAIL had placed orders after inviting global tenders for import of the first lot of 6000 tonnes of ferro-silicon on the following countries:—

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|-----------|------|--------|
| (i) 3000 | ... | U.K. |
| (ii) 3000 | | U.S.A. |

Since the quantity of 900 tonnes of ferro-silicon of the above quantity were not supplied in time, SAIL have placed orders of this quantity of ferro-silicon, along with the second lot of 6000 tonnes, on Norway.

In respect of ferro-chrome, after inviting global tenders, orders were placed by SAIL as under:—

Type	Quantity	Country
LC Ferro-Chrome	860 tonnes	U.K.
ELC Ferro-Chrome	200 tonnes	U.S.A.
Fe-Cr-Silicon	270 tonnes	U.S.A.

The import of both ferro-silicon and ferro-chrome has been in accordance with the normal conditions and procedures followed by SAIL for such transactions.

Air link of Coimbatore with Madurai and Trichy

6491. SHRI ERA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to connect Coimbatore with Madurai and Trichy by air; and

(b) if not, will Government take necessary steps to connect Coimbatore with Madurai and Trichy by Air as early as possible in view of the necessity of this route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to constraints on its turbo-prop fleet and consideration of economies of operations, Indian Airlines is not in a position to consider addition of this route to its existing network.

Construction of Janta Hotel at Coimbatore

6492. SHRI ERA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a Janata Hotel at Coimbatore to help the tourists; and

(b) if not, whether in view of the heavy influx of tourists, steps are proposed to be taken to construct one at Coimbatore, the industrial city of Tamil Nadu and also in other cities like Madurai and Trichy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM