

imports of bearings are assessed to duty provisionally, thus safeguarding the interests of revenue.

Having regard to various aspects of the matter, including undervaluation, the rate of basic Customs duty on bearings had been increased by 50% as part of the budget for 1985-86. Further, certain categories of bearings have also recently been subjected to a specific rate of duty in addition to the existing ad valorem rate in order to deal with attempts at under invoicing.

Steel Plants at Goa

1036. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian born industrialist based in London has come forward to set up a steel plant at Goa using latest technology;

(b) if so, the action taken to set up the above steel plant at Goa; and

(c) since Goa is having iron ore which is at present being exported, whether the steel plant would be set up immediately to save foreign exchange by using the available iron ore at Goa ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The proposal is under examination.

Take over of Visveswariah Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravathi by SAIL

1037. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has requested the Steel Authority of India to take over Visveswariah Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadravathi; and

(b) if so, the action taken on the above proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter has been examined. It is not proposed to take over this plant.

Raids Made by Tax Authorities in Karnataka Since June, 1985

1038. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of raids conducted by the Central Income-tax authorities in Karnataka since June, 1985;

(b) the amount unearthed and unaccounted goods seized; and

(c) whether action has been taken as per law to prosecute those tax offenders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). During the period 1-6-85 to 31-10-85, Income-tax Department conducted 65 searches in Karnataka and seized, prima-facie, unexplained assets worth Rs. 93.36 lakhs approximately. Necessary action to launch prosecutions under Direct Taxes Acts in appropriate cases has been initiated.

Clearing of Hill Forest in Orissa by Bharat Aluminium Company

1039. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of hill forest cleared by the Bharat Aluminium Company in the Gandhamardan Hills in Orissa; and

(b) whether the clearing of the forest and the disposal of the timber is done without consultation with Government of Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b). Bharat Aluminium Company Limited