

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the closing down of small foundry industries in Gujarat during the last six months due to shortage of pig iron;

(b) the reasons for shortfall in the production of pig iron;

(c) the steps taken to increase the production; and

(d) whether attention of Government have also been drawn to the fact that the cost to import of pig iron is very high and small foundries cannot use costly pig iron ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) No such report has been received by Government.

(b) The actual production of saleable pig iron by SAIL plants of 5.54 lakh tonnes fell short of the target of 6.01 lakh tonnes during April—October, 1985, mainly on account of the industrial relations and other operational problems and at Bokaro Steel Plant during the first quarter of 1985-86.

(c) Efforts were made to increase production by maintaining harmonious industrial relations, adhering to the technological parameters and also by better maintenance of plants, thereby improving the productivity.

(d) The landed cost of imported pig iron is approximately 12 per cent higher than the cost of indigenous material. The Gujarat Small Scale Industries Corporation have requested for a reduction in import duty.

Five-Star Hotels Run by ITDC in the Country

1798. **SHRI R. M. BHOYE :** Will the Minister of **PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM** be pleased to state :

(a) the number of five-star India Tourism Development Corporation hotels under construction at present in the country;

(b) whether Government have stopped construction of five-star hotels in the country recently; and

(c) if so, the details of Government's policy in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) No 5-star hotel of the ITDC is under construction.

(b) and (c). There is no bar on construction of five-star hotels in the country, subject to market demand, financial viability and the availability of resources with the promoter.

[English]

Stoppage of Production in Alloy Steel Mills at Durgapur

1799. **SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :**
SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of **STEEL AND MINES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a production stoppage in the Alloy Steel Mills at Durgapur;

(b) the reasons for the losses incurred by the said plant;

(c) if so, whether this is due to workers opposing redeployment of employees;

(d) whether the expansion of the mills has been done without recruiting the necessary staff; and

(e) the steps taken to get workers to resume production ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) There was a production stoppage in the Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur during the period 3.10.1985 to 29.10. 1985.

(b) The main reasons for the losses are :

(i) Low capacity utilisation due to non-availability of adequate power and coke oven gas.

(ii) Outdated technology, resulting in lower yield and higher cost of production.

(iii) Uneconomic selling prices due to stiff competition in the market for Alloy Steels.