

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c). The guidelines for grant of Industrial Licenses for Steel Industry including the expansion of capacities of mini steel plants are under review. These guidelines have taken into consideration the projections of demand and availability of steel for the future.

(d) and (e). A group has been constituted to identify measures for modernisation of mini steel plants by adoption of latest technology available in electric steel-making. Upgradation of technology in mini steel plants is likely to result in considerable saving in electric power consumption.

Freight computerisation

844. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have been considering freight computerisation for the last 4 years and have received proposals from West Germany and National Informatics Centre (NIC);

(b) if so, whether these proposals have been evaluated;

(c) the agency which has done the evaluation; and

(d) the final decision, if any, taken in the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The project on computerisation of Freight Operations Information System (Freight OIS) was sanctioned during 1982-83. A detailed Project Document was prepared by Indian Railways in October, 1986 with the assistance of Consultants, namely, M/s CANAC of Canada, and M/s DETECON of West Germany. A proposal from NIC has been received in April, 1987.

(b) to (d). The proposal received from NIC is under examination by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), and

is under discussion with NIC/Department of Electronics.

Losses suffered by mini steel plants

845. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESHWARI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether crisis have arisen due to continuing losses by mini steel plants;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) what action is being contemplated to overcome the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b). Steel Furnace Association of India and Federation of Engineering Industries of India have represented to the Government regarding problems faced by mini steel plants. It has been represented that due to increase in input costs and fall in selling price of ingots, the mini steel plants are incurring cash losses.

(c) The custom duty on import of scrap has been reduced by 5% ad valorem with effect from 4th December, 1986 and adequate quantity of scrap has been made available to mini steel plants, through increased imports.

EEC help for modernisation of mini steel industry

846. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESHWARI:
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

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

(a) whether European Economic Community is considering to help the Mini Steel Industry in India for its modernisation;

(b) if so, whether a high level Indian delegation representing members of various agencies visited the European Economic Community countries;