

(b) the route adopted by Indian vessels for importing oil from Iran and Iraq, during the war period ;

(c) whether the shipping industrial suffered any loss on account of wear and tear and adoption of longer route than before ; and

(d) if so, the total loss suffered as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) No reports of any attack on, or damage to Indian ships in the month of July, 1988 has been received.

(b) to (d) The route adopted by Indian vessels for importing oil from Iran and Iraq is through the straits of Hormuz and along the coast of UAE, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Depending upon the state of hostilities, slight adjustments were also made from time to time regarding the source of supplies. However Indian shipping industry has not suffered on this account as the freight took into account the longer routing.

Non-Payment of Teaching Allowance to the Teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas, Bhopal Region

4739. SHRI SAMAR BRAHMA CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether teachers of some of the Kendriya Vidyalayas of Bhopal Region have not been paid teaching allowance ;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-payment ; and

(c) the time by which those teachers would be paid that allowance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) : (a) to (c) According to the information available teaching allowance has been paid in all the Kendriya Vidyalayas in Bhopal region.

Funds for Agricultural Pumps

4740. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
PROF. RAM KRISHNA MORE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to restrictions imposed by the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Cooperative Banks and Land Development banks in the Maharashtra State are not releasing funds for connections to agricultural pumps ;

(b) whether the State Government has urged Union Government to direct NABARD to remove the restrictions imposed by them ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) NABARD has not imposed any restrictions on Cooperative and Land Development Banks in Maharashtra for financing energisation of pumpsets.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Implementation of Transfer Guidelines in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

4741 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI S. M. GURADDI :
SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some changes in transfer guidelines for teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan have been approved by the Board of Governors on 31 May, 1988 ;

(b) whether these changes have been implemented ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Board of Governors of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, in its meeting held on 31.5.1988 have agreed that teachers promoted as PGTs and Vice-Principals will be posted either outside the region or language area. Since this decision was late for effecting transfers in the summer vacations for 1988, this modification will become effective from 1.5.1989 when the general transfer would be next ordered.

Aerial Seeding

4742. CHAUDHARY RAM PARKASH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are planning to use aerial seeding to increase forest cover ;

(b) the measures taken to do arial seeding in parts of Haryana and Punjab ; and

(c) the details of aerial seeding carried out in two States during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Aerial seeding has not been taken up in Haryana and Punjab.

(c) Does not arise.

Rise in Prices of Nickel and Cobalt

4743. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a steep rise in the prices of nickel and cobalt ;

(b) whether the country is losing huge amount of foreign exchange by importing these strategic metals ;

(c) whether huge deposit of these minerals is found in Sukinda Valley in Cuttack district of Orissa ;

(d) whether there is a proposal for setting up of a nickel extracting plant so that the growing domestic demand of these metals can be met and foreign exchange saved ; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) and (b) There is no indigenous production of nickel and cobalt in the country. The total requirements of these metals in the country are met through imports. The import of nickel is canalised through Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) and the requirements of cobalt are met through imports under Open General Licence.

The total quantity and value of import of primary nickel during the last three years was as under :—

| Year | Quantity (MT) | Value (Rs. crores) |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1985-86 | 5500 | 35.57 |
| 1986-87 | 3424 | 17.71 |
| 1987-88 (Prov.) | 6970 | 55.00 |

As far as cobalt is concerned, the total demand of the country is currently estimated at about 150 Metric Tonnes. During 1985-86, the total quantity and value of cobalt and its alloys imported was 130.94 MT valued at Rs 4.54 crores.

In the recent past, international prices of nickel have risen sharply due to tight availability of the metal in the international market and increase in demand by users particularly in the Steel making industry

(c) to (e) Nickel ore reserves in the country as on 31.3.1983 are estimated at 165 million tonnes averaging 1.04% nickel