

India-China Relations

740. SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India-China relations are not yet cordial but just correct;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any move or overture has been made by either country since 21st March, 1977 for friendlier relations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) to (d) The process of normalisation with China initiated by the exchange of Ambassadors is continuing. There have been visits to each others' countries by official and non-official groups. In April—May 1977, three representatives of Indian trading houses visited the Canton Spring Fair and entered into export and import contracts. Further opportunities for enhancing trade between the two countries on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit are being explored. On the whole, over the last three or four months, the earlier trend of the Chinese press and media in dealing with India in critical and hostile terms has diminished. India will be prepared to consider any initiative to add more substance to the process of normalisation or suggestions for improvement of relations on the basis of the Five Principles.

Control on indiscriminate use of Antibiotics

741. SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a growing tendency among doctors to prescribe and administer antibio-

tics, somewhat indiscriminately, for the treatment of diverse diseases;

(b) whether it is a fact that in many countries of Europe and America, antibiotics are to-day regarded, more often than not, as "a remedy worse than the disease" because of the side effects they produce;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to control the use of antibiotics in the interest of public health; and

(d) the modus operandi for achieving that objective?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) to (d): According to reports, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Senator Edward Kennedy in USA had collected material evidence to show that pharmaceutical manufacturers, particularly those manufacturing and marketing antibiotic formulations, have been employing high pressure sales promotional techniques to influence the prescribing practices of medical practitioners. Such promotional efforts, it is reported, had led to reckless use of antibiotics for treatment of ailments, particularly when equivalent drugs of other categories were available. Indiscriminate use of antibiotics, it is reported, has resulted in drug side effects and also to proliferation of strains that are resistant to the present family of drugs. The U.S.A. report has specifically cited Ampicillin which was being freely used for the treatment of minor ailments such as tonsillitis or sore throat. "Ampicillin", it has been stated "has been used with reckless abandon".

The above has been brought to the notice of all State Drugs Controllers, all State Administrative Medical Officers, Medical Associations to ensure that the medical practitioners recommend the use Ampicillin formulations for conditions for which the preparation has been scientific-

ly evaluated and approved. They have also been asked to bring to the notice of Director General of Health Service about exaggerated claims made by any firm marketing Ampicillin.

An expert Group has been constituted to evolve a national policy on the use of antibiotics.

Comparative cost of Production of Steel

742. SHRI P. K. DEO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of production of one tonne of steel in Rourkela, Bhilai, Durgapur, Bokaro, IISCO AND TISCO; and

(b) how the cost compares with the cost of production in U.S.A., West Germany and Japan?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) The following table indicates the average cost of production of one tonne of saleable steel in Rourkela, Bhilai, Durgapur, Bokaro, IISCO and TISCO during 1975-76:

| Plant | (Rs. per tonne) | 1975-76 |
|----------|-----------------|---------|
| Rourkela | . . . | 1858 |
| Bhilai | . . . | 1068 |
| Durgapur | . . . | 1445 |
| Bokaro | . . . | 1878 |
| IISCO | . . . | 1766 |
| TISCO | . . . | 1300 |

(b) Information in respect of cost of production is treated as confidential by steel producer countries and is, therefore, not available.

Second Steel Plant in Orissa

743. SHRI P. K. DEO:
SHRI S. KUNDU:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to put up a second steel plant in Orissa;

(b) whether the Orissa Government suggested the location of the Steel Plant at Nayagarh in Keonjher District on the expert advice of Kuljeans and M/s. M. N. Dastur and Co., and

(c) if so, the steps being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):
(a) to (c): Based on the expert advice of Kuljeans and Dastur & Co., Orissa Government has suggested the location of a steel Plant in Nayagarh, Orissa. The matter is now receiving the attention of the Government of India.

Investment in BALCO Complex

744. SHRI P. K. DEO: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the captive mines at Phutkapahad and Amarkantak do not contain sufficient Bauxite Ore to feed the BALCO factory at Korba;

(b) whether BALCO has applied for Bauxite lease in the Gandhamardan area in Orissa which is the nearest deposit to the factory;

(c) if so, when the mining lease of Gandhamardan Bauxite Ore will be given to BALCO; and

(d) the amount so far invested in BALCO Complex at Korba?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(a) and (b): Mineable bauxite ore