

now there would be more capital investment and technology flow from the U.S. to India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Indian delegation to the Joint Council had expressed similar hope; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) The Indo-US Joint Business Council, though constituted under the Economic and Commercial Subcommission of the Indo-US Joint Commission, functions on a purely non-official level. Government of India is neither represented in the Council nor does it participate in its deliberations. The objective of the Joint Business Council is to foster greater understanding and closer cooperation between the business communities of the two countries and improve the economic and commercial relations between the two countries.

(b) and (c). Government has seen the Joint Communique issued at the conclusion of the JBC meeting held on the 14th and 15th of February, 1980. It refers among others, to the technology transfer issues. But it does not make any specific reference to hopes that in future there would be increased capital investment from the US in India. Government has, however, seen press reports to indicate that Mr. Orville Freeman, Leader of the U.S. delegation had expressed such hopes at a Press Conference at the conclusion of the JBC meeting in February, 1980.

(d) Government's policy relating to flow of technology and foreign investment remains selective. Consistent with maximum possible emphasis on self-reliance, import of foreign technology and foreign investment will be encouraged only in areas of high national priority so as to supplement and enhance our domestic resources and capabilities.

Upgrading of Bangalore Airport as International Airport

488. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) are Government aware of the importance of Bangalore Air Port; and

(b) do Government propose to take steps to upgrade Bangalore Air port as an International Air port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) Yes, Sir. Bangalore aerodrome is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs. 2.31 crores to make it suitable for Airbus Operation.

(b) There is no proposal, at present, to make Bangalore aerodrome an international airport.

Setting up of a Port based Steel Plant at Paradip

489. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a port based steel plant at Paradip; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what would be the production capacity of the proposed steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). As part of the overall development programme for the enhancement of capacity in the steel industry, Government have been considering the possibilities of setting up a new port-based steel plant with ultimate capacity of 3.0 million tonnes per annum. Paradip is also being considered as a possible site in this connection. Discussions for setting up new steel plant are being held with foreign parties who have offered technical and financial assistance for this purpose.