

(b) No, Sir. Taxation is an important method of resource mobilisation in the country and reflects the extent of domestic effort for capital formation. Tax revenue being the main source of public revenue, is also used by the Government, to pay for other current expenditure such as defence, interest payments, police, general administration etc. There is therefore no question of public wealth being squandered without creating any tangible assets.

(c) Does not arise.

**Proposal to set up Jute Mill, Godown and Cold Storage for Tripura**

3089. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up another Jute Mill, Godown and cold storage for Tripura; and

(b) if so, steps taken by the Central Government to sanction these?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). There is no proposal under Government's consideration to set up another jute mill in Tripura. The Central Warehousing Corporation has approved the proposal for the construction of 1,000 tonnes capacity cold storage at Agartala. Five rural godowns are being constructed by the N.C.D.C.

**Non Lifting of Iron ore concentrates from Kudremukh Project by Iran**

3090. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the iron ore concentrates produced by the Kudremukh project are earmarked for sale to Iran;

(b) whether Iran is not lifting the ore so far because her steel plants are not ready; and

(c) if so, the amount of loss which will be suffered by India on this account?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In terms of the Sale and Purchase Contract with the Iranian Steel Company, the off-take of iron ore concentrate produced by the Kudremukh Project is scheduled to commence only from the end of August, 1980. However, according to the indications given by the Iranians, the commencement of offtake may be delayed by 1½ years and the maximum quantity may not also exceed 5 million tonnes per annum, as a result of the setback in their steel development programme.

(c) At this stage, it is not possible to estimate the amount of loss because this would depend on the outcome of a number of issues presently under negotiation with the Iranians.

**Increase in Air Fares for Passengers**

3093. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase air fares for passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many times the fares of passengers have been increased during the last three years and what are the details of each such increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement giving the requisite information is attached.