

raw jute by the end of December, 1980. The possibilities of export of raw jute, is also being explored.

Tax Concession to Hotels to give boost to Tourism

4676. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to grant tax concession to hotels in order to give boost to tourism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of tourists visited during 1979 and target fixed for 1980?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) No, Sir. However, hotels already enjoy certain tax concessions.

(b) 7,64,731 foreign tourists visited India during 1979. Their number during 1980 is expected to be around 8 lakhs.

Scheme to re-structure and revamp Steel Plants

4677. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have mooted a plan to restructure and revamp steel plants in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Re-structuring and revamping of steel plants through modernisation and up-dating of technology, innovations and replacement of equipment in order to maintain their technical and physical health is a continuing process and, therefore, various proposals for this purpose are being pro-

cessed continually by Government. Having regard to the technological developments in the last 25 years, some of the proposals in various stages of preparation/consideration at present are:

BHILAI STEEL PLANT:

In pursuance of the agreement entered into by the Government of India with the Soviet Organisation for the preparation of programmes for introduction of technological improvements/innovations at Bhilai and Bokaro Steel Plants, the Soviets have submitted a report on 'Basic Technological and Economic Consideration' (BTEC) for Bhilai Steel Plant. This is being examined further by the Plant, in consultation with Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants of India Limited (MECON).

DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT:

The British Steel Corporation (Overseas Services) had undertaken the preparation of a development plan for Durgapur Steel Plant under the Technical Aid Programme of the U.K. Government. Their report has been submitted to the plant recently and is under consideration.

ROURKELA STEEL PLANT:

A Consortium of West German firms has shown interest in undertaking a study on modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant. Possibilities of getting such a study financed under West German Government Aid Programme are being explored.

BOKARO STEEL PLANT:

The proposal for expansion of the steel plant from 4.0 MT to 4.75 MT is under consideration of the Government. The possibility of increasing the steel capacity beyond 4.75 MT per annum by making technological improvements is being studied by MECON in association with their Soviet counterparts.