

should be weighed in favour of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and special bankable schemes suited to members of these communities should be drawn up to ensure their participation in such schemes and larger flow of credit to them for self-employment.

Differential Rate of Interest Scheme which is in operation since 1972 is also devised wholly for the benefit of the weakest amongst the weaker sections of the society. Under the Scheme, the banks have to ensure that at least 40 per cent of the credit goes to the members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. As at the end of December, 1979, a sum of Rs. 140.95 crores covering more than 20 lakh borrowal accounts was outstanding under the Scheme. Of this a sum of Rs. 61.13 crores covering nearly 9 lakhs borrowal accounts was outstanding amongst the members of S.C./S.T. This works out to 43.4 per cent of the aggregate advances under the Scheme as against the stipulated target of 40 per cent.

Cost of Orissa Sponge Iron Ltd. Being set up in Orissa

1770. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the Orissa Sponge Iron Limited Projected to be set up at Tangrani in Keonjhar district of Orissa;

(b) whether this project is going to be set up by the O.S.I.L. with the collaboration of IPICOL and T.R.F.I;

(c) if so, the share capital of different associates; and

(d) when this project is expected to enter into commercial production?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The estimated cost of the Orissa Sponge Iron Ltd. Projected is Rs. 23.60 crores.

(b) A new joint sector company under the name and style of Orissa Sponage Iron Ltd. has been formed

with the participation of Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd. (IPICOL) and Tor shares of different associates are as (TRFI).

(c) It is reported that out of the total equity capital of Rs. 600 lakhs the shares of different associates are as following:—

IPICOL	Rs. 180 lakhs
TRFI	Rs. 120 lakhs
Allis & Chalmers	Rs. 60 lakhs

(d) The plant is expected to be commissioned by the end of 1981.

Setting up of sponge iron factory at Joda, Orissa

1771. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether IPICOL is going to set up a sponge Iron factory at Joda in Orissa;

(b) if so, the amount estimated to invest for this factory;

(c) whether IPICOL wants to set up this factory with the joint collaboration of same foreign firm; and

(d) if so, the name of the firm and whether the factory will be set up within this fifth five year plan period?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) An application was received from M/s. IPICOL for setting up a sponge iron plant at Joda in Orissa which was rejected in June, 1980 because IPICOL had earlier been issued a licence to set up a plant of 3,00,000 tonnes annum capacity, of which they are implementing only 1,50,000 tonnes. Since they had an un-implemented capacity with 1,50,000 tonnes still available with them, they could not be granted further capacity. Recently the Orissa Government have made known their intention to set up the plant out of their unimplemented capacity.

(b), (c) and (d). The Orissa Government has advised that the new plant will use the indigenous technology claimed to have been developed by the Tata Iron and Steel Company. Other details have not yet been advised by them so far.

Direct flight between Delhi and Trivandrum

1772. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties faced by air travellers from Trivandrum to Delhi and vice versa due to then on-introduction of a direct flight from Trivandrum to Delhi and Delhi to Trivandrum;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take step for introducing a direct flight from Trivandrum to Delhi and vice versa; and

(c) if so, when the direct flight may materialise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (c). The average number of passengers per day on this route is estimated at 15, and as such a direct flight between Delhi and Trivandrum is not economically viable.

However, to facilitate passengers travelling between Delhi and Trivandrum, Indian Airlines schedules have been so designed as to provide very convenient and immediate connections for travelling from Delhi to Trivandrum and vice versa with one stop only either at Madras or at Bombay. The ticketing and baggage both via Bombay and Madras will be booked direct between Delhi and Trivandrum.

Alleged infringement of import and export rules in importing L-Base

1773. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn towards the infringement of

Import and Export Rules by the State Chemical and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Limited, in importing of L-Base against letter of authority;

(b) if so, whether a detailed examination has since been made;

(c) whether it is true that the documents raised by the State Chemical and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Limited for import of L-Base against letter of authority clearly violated the provisions of Export and Import Rules; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter and, if not, then under what authority they have done so?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Representations were received that the State Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India Ltd., were charging sales tax on L-Base, imported by them on behalf of Actual Users against Letters of Authority. The Corporation accordingly examined this matter and obtained legal opinion which showed that the transactions, in question, would not be treated as exempt from sales tax.

(c) and (d). The question whether there has been any violation of the provisions of import and export rules in this regard is being looked into.

Participation of national textile corporation in Government's plan to adopt villages for economic development

1774. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation has decided to participate in Government's plan to adopt villages in backward regions to promote economic development;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme drawn by the N.T.C.;

(c) how many villages in which Districts of M.P. would be adopted by the subsidiaries of N.T.C.; and