

discussions held with their Indian counter-parts, outcome thereof;

(c) whether efforts are being made for export of steel ingots to East European countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the steel ingots are being exported at a price which results in a loss to India, if so, the details and reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Soviet delegation is reported to have visited India specifically for purchase of steel ingots from India.

(c) and (d) Efforts were made to export steel ingots to some of the East European countries but no contract has been concluded.

Since the stocks of ingots have come down considerably, no further efforts are being made to export steel ingots. The question of selling steel ingots at a loss to India does not therefore, arise.

Lal Imli on the verge of closure

7218. SHRI NIREN GHOSH:
SHRI DAYA RAM SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Lal Imli of British India Corporation is on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether allegations of large scale corruption in purchase of raw material are true;

(d) the reasons why losses of Lal Imli of British India Corporation are mounting up;

(e) whether Government have taken any steps; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Losses have arisen out of continuous slack demand for woollen products resulting in large accumulation of stocks, but this trend has been arrested in the current winter due to pick up in demand.

(e) and (f) On the basis of Government guarantees, financial assistance from banking sector has been secured; product diversification permitted by Government has helped the unit out of heavy dependence on wool and the modernisation of plant and machinery together with reversal in the market demand situation is expected to help the unit turn the corner.

Conversion of Hyderabad Airport into International Airport

7219. SHRI T. DAMODAR REDDY:
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to convert Hyderabad Airport into International Airport;

(b) if so, what are the main features of the proposal;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal or request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh or any other Organisation to convert Hyderabad Airport into International Airport; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does no arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The matter is receiving attention.