

the project is Rs. 37.05 crores based on July 1980 prices. The construction period from the date of order to the completion of the plant is estimated at 40 months, including 4 months for trial and commissioning. The pellets produced will be of direct reduction grade, suitable for making sponge iron.

(c) Does not arise.

Choice of aircraft for third level air service

3557. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision regarding the purchase of aircraft for use in the third level air services;

(b) if so, the consideration of the choice;

(c) what were the other countries who offered for the sale of such aircraft; and

(d) the comparative evaluation of the offers?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Evaluation Committee which was set up to recommend to the Government suitable aircraft for Third Level Air Services requested 14 aircraft manufacturers to provide necessary technical information for the selection of aircraft. However, only 5 manufacturers of 5 different types of aircraft, viz, Twin Otter (Canada), Nomad (Australia) Skyvan (U.K.) Casa (Spain) and Bandeirante (Brazil) came forward with adequate technical information.

(d) A comparative evaluation of the offers received will be made at the time Government takes a decision

about the selection of aircraft for operation of feeder services.

Report of Jute Task Force

3558. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jute Task Force, which was appointed by Government has since submitted its report.

(b) if so, the salient features of the report; and

(c) action taken thereon?

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

(a) to (c). The task Force has submitted its Report to Government on 26th February, 1981. It has made series of recommendations ranging from improvement in the productivity and quality of raw jute, to modernisation of industry and an appropriate strategy for domestic sales and exports. A copy of the Report is available in the Parliament Library. The recommendations of the Task Force are under examination by the Government.

O.G.L. for steel imports

3559. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to do away with the Open General Licence for steel imports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The subject matter of the question form a part of the import policy to be announced for 1981-82. The policy is normally placed on the Table of the House as and when announced provided the Parliament is in Session.