

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):

(a) The foreign exchange earnings from tourism are estimated on an all-India basis. The foreign exchange earnings for the year 1980 have thus been provisionally estimated at Rs. 482 crores at current prices compared to Rs. 384 crores for the year 1979 and Rs. 338 crores for the year 1978.

According to the Foreign Tourist Survey conducted during 1976-77, 7.15 per cent of them visited Goa. On that basis, the estimated number of foreign tourists who visited Goa during the last 3 years, viz., 1978, 1979 and 1980 works out of 53,000, 55,000 and 57,000, respectively.

(b) No Central assistance is given for tourism projects as Centrally sponsored schemes in the tourism sector were abolished since the Four Five Year Plan. Hence, tourism schemes are taken up in the Central or in the State/Union Territory Sector.

While no schemes have so far been taken up in Goa in the Central sector, based on the approval given to two hotel projects by the Central Department of Tourism, the Industrial Finance Corporation of India has given loans amounting to Rs. 84.00 lakhs to two hotel projects in Goa. In addition, the Central Department of Tourism has been releasing a subsidy of Rs. 12,000 per annum to the Government of Goa, Daman and Diu to meet the salary of the Warden and the Assistant Warden of the Youth Hostel at Panaji constructed by the Department, but which is managed by the State Government.

Separate Corporation for Visakapatnam Steel Plant

3566. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:
SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has suggested to the Centre for establishing a separate Corporation for expediting work at the Visakapatnam Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PANAB MUKHERJEE):

(a) and (b). Soon after Government approved the establishment of a steel plant at Visakapatnam, a proposal was mooted in the Department of Steel for constitution of a separate Company, viz, Visakhapatnam Steel Limited, in view of the tight time schedule for the commissioning of the plant. The then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, in his letter dated 4-4-1980 to the Minister of Steel and Mines, also suggested, *inter-alia*, the formation of a separate company. It will, however, need some more time for the Government to finalise their views in the matter.

Modernisation plan of Alloy Steel Plant

3567. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Rs. 57 crores modernisation plan of the Alloy Steel Plant for updating technology envisages raising of capacity from 100,000 tonnes to 266,000 tonnes;

(b) if so, whether the plan has already been approved by the Steel Ministry;

(c) what are the other main features of the proposed plan;

(d) whether it is also a fact that deterioration in power supply in 1980-81 led to an unprecedented loss of Rs. 7 crores; and

(e) if so, whether Alloy Steel Plant has decided to install a captive power plant to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The scheme envisages the capacity to be increased from 1,80,000 tonnes of ingot steel to 2,60,000 tonnes of liquid steel per year.

(b) No, Sir. The proposal is under consideration of Government.

(c) The scheme aims at installing facilities for Vacuum Oxygen Decarburisation and Vacuum Arc Degassing. It also envisages installation of a Continuous Casting Machine and other associated handling and finishing facilities.

(d) The shortage of power has resulted in loss of production of about 4,300 tonnes of saleable steel. The actual working results for 1980-81 will, however, be known only after end of the year and after the accounts are finalised.

(e) A Captive thermal power plant to serve both the Alloy Steel Plant and the Durgapur Steel Plant is being set up by the Durgapur Steel Plant.

Import of Paper

3568. **SHRI B. V. DESAI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has not yet taken any decision on the import of paper for the next year;

(b) if so, whether this has led to speculation that no sizeable import has been planned in the immediate future;

(c) whether Union Government has taken any final decision in regard to import of paper during 1981-82;

(d) if so, whether any negotiations for import of paper has been initiated with some foreign country; and

(e) if so, the result thereof?

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

(a) to (e). Import of writing and printing paper is arranged through the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. to meet the gap between domestic demand and availability. Import for 1981-82 will also be arranged on this basis. The STC purchases paper under "Open Buyer Scheme" and not by negotiation with any particular supplier.

Trade between India and U.S.A.

3569. **SHRI B. V. DESAI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported in the press that USA has assured India that there will be improvement in the trade between the two countries during the current year;

(b) if so, whether any communication in this regard has been received from US Government;

(c) if so, the details of the same;

(d) to what extent Government are confident to improve the trade between the two countries; and

(e) what was the position of trade relations between the two countries during 1980?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes-Sir. Government have seen reports in the Press predicting improvement in trade between the U.S.A. and India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Recessionary trends in the U.S. economy and increasing protectionist measures have adversely affected the growth of India exports to U.S.A. According to the figures received from the Indian Embassy in Washington, there was, however, no decline in exports from India to the U.S. during the period January to