

ITC and ITDC to Establish Hotels in Orissa

691. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Tobacco Company and India Tourism Development Corporation have decided to establish new hotels in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and by when the construction work of the proposed hotels are likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). During the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980—85), ITDC proposes to construct hotels, one each at Puri and Konark. These hotels are proposed as joint ventures to be constructed in collaboration with the Orissa Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. The schemes are still under formulation and details are being worked out. The implementation of these projects is likely to be taken up in 1981-82 subject to the availability of funds and satisfactory feasibility studies.

It is understood that some private hotel groups are examining the possibility of setting up hotels in that State.

Port Based Steel Plant at Haldia

692. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any expert Committee has recommended Haldia as a suitable site for port based steel plant;

(b) if not, the sites that were recommended by the Committee; and

(c) the reasons for not choosing Haldia as a site for one of those steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. In fact, no Expert Committee was set up by Government to recommend sites for the location of port based steel plants. However, in a study done by MECON in 1979-80, Haldia was mentioned as a site alongwith other possible locations.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Consumption of Cobalt

693. SHRI HARINATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the consumption of cobalt in the country;

(b) the total imports of cobalt made during the last one year;

(c) whether it is a fact that several million rupees worth of cobalt is being rejected as slag by copper plants in the country;

(d) whether any research has been made to recover cobalt, nickel and copper from the slag; and

(e) if so, the percentage of economy likely to be affected by this research?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Presently, the total requirement of cobalt and its alloys is met by imports. Based on the figures of past imports, the estimated consumption of cobalt is of the order of 140—150 tonnes per annum.

(b) Import of cobalt and its alloys during 1978-79 and 1979-80 (upto December, 1979) was 146 tonnes and 111 tonnes respectively.

(c) Cobalt is found in traces in the copper ore treated to produce copper metal and it finds its way to the Converter slag. The slag is stockpiled for extraction of cobalt as and when a suitable process for the recovery is established.