

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Messrs Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation and State Industrial Investment Corporation of Maharashtra have applied to set up new projects for the manufacture of 4 lakh tonnes and 5 lakh tonnes of sponge iron per annum respectively. The proposals are based on gaseous reduction of iron ore/pellets from off-shore gas of Bombay High. The capital costs of the projects are stated to be 53.90 crores and 69.50 crores respectively.

(c) and (d) Planning Commission has recently expressed the opinion that both the sponge iron projects are economically not viable. Their economic viability has, therefore, to be first established to the satisfaction of the Government.

Request from Kerala for Ban on Import of Coconut Oil

2803. SHRI D. S. A. SIVAPRAKASAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has been making persistent requests to the Centre not to permit import of coconut oil;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of it, Government have given licence to a private firm in Delhi to import that oil for the year 1980-81;

(c) whether any tender system was adopted; and

(d) the names of tenderers and the name of the Delhi firm?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government of Kerala have represented that no import of Coconut oil should be allowed.

(b) No such import licence was issued. However, M/s. Jain Shudh

Vanaspati Ltd. having office in Delhi imported industrial grade coconut oil in 1980-81 on the basis that this item was permitted under Open General Licence.

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

Setting up Spinning Mills in Orissa

2804. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some spinning mills in Orissa during the year 1981-82;

(b) whether a spinning mill is proposed to be set up at Dhankanal District of Orissa; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c). Government of India do not set up spinning mills.

टसर सिल्क उद्योग

2805. श्री मनी राम बागडी : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि टसर सिल्क उद्योग को गम्भीर संकट का सामना करना पड़ रहा है और इस बारे में सरकार द्वारा क्या उपाय किये जा रहे हैं ?

वाणिज्य तथा इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी) : हाल के वर्षों में, इस तथ्य के कारण कि टसर का उत्पादन करने वाले राज्यों में विकास प्रयासों को बढ़ाया गया है, टसर कोयों के विपणन की समस्याएं हैं। इस स्थिति को पूरी तरह से गम्भीर संकट की स्थिति