

(b) if so, what are the banks that have been permitted to do so and to what extent this will help the Indian nationals living abroad;

(c) whether it is also a fact that chances of Indian banks have been jeopardised in Hongkong; and

(d) if so, what were the main reasons of the same?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No such decision has been taken by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are, at present, four Indian banks having fourteen full-fledged branches in Hong Kong. One of these banks (State Bank of India) has a wholly owned deposit taking company functioning in that country. Also, three Indian banks (Bank of Baroda, Indian Bank and Union Bank of India) have jointly set up a deposit taking company in Hong Kong. None of the Indian banks or their subsidiaries operating in Hong Kong have given any indication that their chances have been jeopardised in Hong Kong.

(d) Does not arise.

Private Sector to Associate with Tourism Development Plans

2969. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to associate the private sector with the tourism development plans in the country;

(b) if so, whether the private sector would also be required to contribute towards the funds that will be spent during the Sixth Plan for developing tourism in the country; and

(c) if so, what are the plans that will be undertaken for developing the tourism during the first two years of the Sixth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The private sector is already involved in the development of tourism in the country, particularly in the field of accommodation and transport facilities and services provided by travel agents, wild life outfitters and tour operators. In the Sixth Plan, 441 tourist centres have been identified falling along 61 travel circuits spread all over the country. It is proposed to develop these centres and infrastructural facilities at these centres along the travel circuits in an integrated manner by pooling all available resources in the Central and State sectors as also the private sector.

Stepping up of Saleable Steel Production

2970. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has asked the Steel Authority of India Limited to explore the possibility of stepping up saleable steel production by 10 per cent over the targeted level;

(b) if so, what is the target level fixed for the year 1980-81;

(c) whether some measures have been suggested to the SAIL by which they will raise their output by 10 per cent;

(d) if so, whether the Steel Authority of India has agreed to this; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken by them in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a), (b) and (d). In consultation with

the steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Government have suggested a production target of 6.30 MT of saleable steel by the public sector steel plants in 1981-82 as against the target of 5.77 MT in 1980-81.

(c) and (e). Measures relating to provision of adequate infra-structural support for attaining the targeted levels of production are under continuous review between SAIL and Government at various levels. In this connection, specific mention may be made of the following steps: close and constant liaison with the main input-supplying agencies; optimisation of power generation from the DVC, State Electricity Boards and the captive power units of the steel plants; augmentation of the captive power generation capacity in the steel plants such as Bokaro, Durgapur and Rourkela; regular monitoring of the position at various levels including the Cabinet Committee on Industrial Infrastructure; and implementation of effective steps for expeditious removal of the bottlenecks.

Financial Assistance for Cotton Monopoly procurement scheme of Maharashtra

2971. SHRI A. T. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide financial assistance for cotton monopoly procurement scheme of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the conditions to be imposed by Government during the current year and in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Firms Manufacturing Ashoka Pillar stamp and Unwater Marked stamp paper

2972. SHRI NIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at present Ashoka Pillar Stamp and unwater marked stamp paper is not being imported from the foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the particulars of the firms manufacturing the said paper along with the firm-wise quantity produced during the last three years and the extent of saving in foreign exchange thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAJ BAROT):

(a) The import of base paper for stamps bearing the Asoka Pillar watermark was discontinued last year after the indigenous variety developed by Messrs. Tribeni Tissues of Calcutta was found to be satisfactory by the India Security Press, Nasik. The unwater-marked base paper for 4-colour commemorative stamps is, however, still being imported but all efforts are being made to explore suitable sources to obtain that type of paper also indigenously.

(b) The Asoka Pillar watermark stamp paper is being supplied by M/s. Tribeni Tissues only and the details are as under:—

Year	Quantity	Approximate saving in foreign exchange
1979-80	30 MT (Trial order)	Rs. 4.50 lakhs
1980-81	577.08 M.T.	Rs. 91.15 lakhs
1981-82 (Supply to be completed by 31-5-82)	1173.70 M.T.	Rs. 212.55 lakhs