

Demand for increase in smelting capacity of mini steel plants

1865. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total installed capacity of mini steel plants in the country;

(b) whether there have been representations from these units for expansion of their smelting capacity, particularly the units located in Maharashtra;

(c) whether Government have considered such representations favourably; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The total installed capacity of mini steel plants in the country is 3.1 million tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Government have examined these representations on the basis of guidelines for industries in force. The applications of units which have achieved 80 per cent of their licensed capacity in any of the previous two years and have received assurance of power supply from the state government are considered favourably. Applications from 22 units for licence for effecting substantial expansion of their capacity have been received so far during the year 1981. Out of these, 7 applications are from Maharashtra. State Government has assured power supply in one case only.

Ceiling on non-essential expenditure

1866. SHRI GHULAM MOHD. KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what concrete steps have been taken to fix a ceiling on non-essential expenditure at the level of Government and corporate sector to contain inflation;

(b) whether any evaluation has been made of the steps taken so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) to (c). Presumably, by non-essential expenditure the Honourable Member is referring to non-developmental expenditure of Government. The need for austerity and effecting economy in non-developmental expenditure has been constantly engaging the attention of the Government. Instructions in this regard are being issued from time to time, as and when found necessary, to Ministries/Departments and Public Sector Undertakings. However, no specific instructions prescribing ceilings on non-developmental expenditure have been issued for the reason that such instructions may not be practicable.

Memorandum from Kerala in respect of import policy on agricultural products

1867. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a memorandum from Kerala demanding re-consideration of the Centre's import policy on agricultural products which is detrimental to the State; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The required information will be placed on the Table of the House

Vayudoot Service for Bihar Towns

1868. SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vayudoot Service is going to be made available to some of the towns of Bihar State as also the other States; and