

(c) whether it is also a fact the enquiries revealed that the heavy industry has curtailed its demand by 75,000 tonnes; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in helping Steel authority of India which is facing this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) and (b) It is correct that the Steel Authority of India Ltd., is facing a problem of accumulation of large stocks of saleable steel. This situation is to a large extent the result of the increase in demand for these items not keeping pace with the increase in production by the steel plants.

(c) In November 1981, Heavy Industry Public Sector Units had projected to the Joint Plant Committee, a demand of 282,000 tonnes of steel for the year 1982-83, but after a review in June, 1982, it was revised to 207,000 tonnes.

(d) The following steps have been taken by Government and SAIL to stimulate sales :

(i) The end use declaration provision under Clause 7 of Iron and Steel (Control) Order, for steel materials, other than pig iron, has been dispensed with.

(ii) Distribution procedures have been relaxed,

(iii) The system of registered traders has been abolished by SAIL and steel trade has been declared open to any one interested in trading in steel.

(iv) Credit facilities on a selective basis for certain items are being offered by SAIL.

(v) Old/damaged and non-moving stocks are disposed through tenders,

(vi) A new scheme has been introduced whereby HR Coils/Skelp and CR Coils/Sheets will be supplied at internationally competitive prices to those who surrender their duty free REP Licence and Advance Licences. It has also been made obligatory for import licence holders enjoying facility for import of such canalised items under various facilities to first approach SAIL for supply of such material.

(vii) Subject to prior sales, SAIL will make inter-stock transfer at their own cost.

In addition, the following steps have been taken to improve the general situation :

(i) Changes in the product-mix of SAIL Plants have been made so that they produce more of high demand items and less of low demand items.

(ii) Import Policy with respect to steel items has been made more restrictive so that avoidable imports do not take place.

Guidelines For Immigration

8189. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry on 9th November, 1982 issued new guidelines to the immigration authorities for the clearance of foreigners from non-commonwealth countries visiting India without a visa after the midnight of November, 9, 1982:

(b) if so, what were the new guidelines issued and whether all the persons, who visited India without a visa have left the country or are still in India; and

(c) if so, how many of the foreigners who entered India without visa are still in the country and what steps are

being taken to see that they go back to their respective countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) :

(a) to (c) The facility of granting thirty days' landing permits to foreign tourists arriving without visas at our Airports and Seaports was suspended from 6th November, 1982. It was subsequently clarified on 9th November 1982 that organised groups of foreign tourists sponsored and conducted by recognised Indian travel agencies could be granted, subject to usual checks, landing permits for specific periods as per itinerary presented to the Immigration authorities. Provision was also made for clearing foreigners coming on pressing; compassionate grounds. Arrival and departure of foreigners is a continuing process. No reports have been received that foreigners cleared for admission under the above mentioned arrangements are overstaying in India.

Setting Up Of Indo-Soviet Joint Groups For Distant Probing Of Earth, Space, Meteorology And Aeronomy

8190. SHRI B. V. DESAI :
SHRI K. MALLANNA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and the Soviet Union have decided to set up four joint groups for distant probing of the earth, space, meteorology and aeronomy;

(b) if so, whether the Soviet International Space Body, Intercosmos stated that experts of the two countries have already studied the programme for a fourth Indian satellite to be launched from a Soviet cosmodrome in 1985-86; and

(c) if so, what are the other programme that are being considered by the joint technical group ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) In the

Joint Indo-USSR Seminar-cum-Workshop in Space Research held in February, 1983, both sides reviewed the progress jointly accomplished in the field of Space Sciences, Applications and Technology as well as areas of possible future collaboration and activities. Four workshops were held to discuss remote sensing, a mosphere sciences and meteorology, astronomy and optical tracking. A Joint Working Group on Space Meteorology and Aeronomy was also constituted to plan and implement collaborative programme in the area of Space Meterology, atmospheric sciences etc. A Protocol was signed at the end of the seminar-cum-workshop between ISRO and the USSR Academy of Sciences covering different aspects of future cooperation in Space Research in the areas of remote sensing, astronomy astrophysics, meterology and atmospheric sciences, optical tracking of satellites and satellite technology.

(b) An agreement was signed between Licensintorg (LIT) of USSR and the Department of Space under which the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-I) will be launched in 1985-86 by a USSR launcher.

(c) Several proposals were made by both sides for discussions to provide a frame-work for future cooperation, which included the possibility of using ground-based facilities both in India and in the USSR, for research in astronomy, the possibility of flying Indian payloads on the Soviet spacecraft for scientific studies, planning of Coordinated experiments for studies in upper atmosphere and ionosphere and joint scientific investigations of important problems of meteorology. The Possibility of using optical tracking network both in the Soviet Union and in India for precise determination of the trajectory of Halley's Comet was also discussed. The broad framework of cooperation drawn up following the meetings includes followup actions for expanding cooperation in space research between India and the Soviet Union. The Indian Space Research Organisation and the Intercosmos Council of the ASSR Academy of Sciences will further