

(b) whether the introduction of services, such as "Sugam Seva" and "Mudrika Seva" has not improved the situation; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to provide quick and efficient transport service to the people of Delhi and New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI):

(a) Due to hike in petrol prices lubricants, spare parts etc. there has been a shift from personalised transport to public transport in the recent past. To meet the growing demand of the travelling public, DTC has been gradually carrying out improvement in its services by acquisition of new buses, introduction of high frequency services on new routes and construction of new depots to provide adequate maintenance facilities.

(b) The introduction of 'Sugam Seva' and 'Mudrika Seva' have brought some relief to the commuters. If it is an indication, these services have been well received by the travelling public. The precise impact of the new services cannot however, be assessed unless overall restructuring of routes is implemented.

(c) It is hoped to cover the entire city by D.T.C. services in a phased manner.

Supply of Crude by Iran on deferred payment

421. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH. Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the proposal for supply of crude to this country on deferred payment was discussed with the Shah of Iran during his recent visit to the country; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

It is not in the public interest to disclose the detailed terms and conditions.

Indian Steel Cheapest in the World

422. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the producer of cheapest steel in the world; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to improve the production, management and distribution of steel in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKIDEV PRASAD): (a) Since the production cost of steel in various countries is not available, it is not possible to say whether production costs of steel in India are the lowest.

(b) Some of the steps taken by Government in improving production, management and distribution of steel in the country are as follows:

(i) The Steel Authority of India Ltd. has been set up to plan, promote and organise an integrated and efficient development of iron and steel and associated industries.

(ii) Close and constant liaison is being maintained with the Ministry of Energy and with the Railways for regular supply of coal and of electric power and for the quick movement of raw-materials to the Steel Plants and of finished products from the Steel Plants to various destinations;

(iii) A number of long-term measures are in hand to bring about an improvement in production like provision of balancing facilities, capital programmes involving additions, replacements etc., improved maintenance aimed at better equipment availability and planned procurement of spare parts, refractories and other essential input materials.