

PARYITE: Kolpatka, Pradhanpali, Dharapal in Singhbhum district and Singhitali area in Garhwa district.

ARSENIC: Dabar, Dhab and Saphitala in Kodarma, Giridih and Nawada districts.

DIAMOND: Sima in Palamau district, Sankh River basin in Gumla district.

(c) Any Indian National or a Company as defined in sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 is free to exploit the mineral reserves after getting mining lease in accordance with the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and Rules framed thereunder.

[English]

Dumping of Steel by Foreign Companies

1387. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Steel Industry is facing serious crisis these days due to dumping of steel by the foreign companies; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard so as to save the Indian Steel Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Indian Steel Industry is facing competition on account of imports from CIS countries. An anti-dumping petition was filed by M/s. SAIL and M/s. ESSAR Steel Ltd., on behalf of the domestic steel producers with the Designated Authority in the Ministry of Commerce under the provisions of the Customs Tariff Act, alleging dumping of HR Coils/ Sheets/ Plates from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakistan. The petition is supported by other major steel producers like TISCO and Lloyd steel. The initiation notification was issued by Ministry of Commerce on 6.10.97. Preliminary findings of the Designated Authority are expected shortly.

With the increase in the customs duties announced in the budget 1998-99 it is expected that import of iron and steel will decrease.

Unemployment Problem In A & N Islands

1388. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of serious unemployment problem prevailing in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if so, the details of various employment schemes sponsored by the Union Government in regard thereto and the achievements made thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) and (b) Keeping in view the urban unemployment problem in the country, including A&N Islands, the Union Government has launched the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY), which replaced the earlier Nehru Rojgar Yojna (NRY) and Prime Minister's integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP), w.e.f. 01.12.97, seeking to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under employed, living below the poverty line through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment.

The Union Government has released the following amounts to A&N Island for the Urban employment components of its schemes so far:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| (i) NRY | (from 1989 till 30.11.97) | Rs. 42.21 lakh |
| (ii) PMIUPEP | (from 1995 till 30.11.97) | Rs. 94.85 lakh |
| (iii) SJSRY | (from 1.12.97.....) | Rs. 67.16 lakh |

[Translation]

Increase in Price of Steel

1389. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) the reasons for the increase in price of steel and its likely effect on the production and demand thereof;

(b) whether the Government are considering to reduce the prices of the products of SAIL, ESSAR, TISCO and any other private steel company; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) After the decontrol of steel in Jan.1992, the demand, production and price of steel are driven by market forces. Government has no role to play in pricing of steel produced by the main producers. Secondary producers were free to fix their own prices even prior to 1992. The open market prices of steel have not shown any drastic increase in the past one year. The reason being that the market is unable to sustain the high cost of steel.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Rail-Bus Accident

1390. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government regarding rail-bus accident which took place at Arjuni Morgaon, Maharashtra during February, 1998;

- (b) if so, the findings thereof;
- (c) whether appropriate compensation has been given to the victims/next kins to victims killed in the accident; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The accident at unmanned level crossing was enquired by a Committee of Officers which has concluded that it occurred due to negligence and failure on the part of Bus driver to take precautions as laid down under section 131 of Motor Vehicles Act, before negotiating the level crossing.

(c) and (d) No compensation is payable to the kin of victims in case of unmanned level crossing accident. However, as a special case, Railways have paid the following ex-gratia payment:

- (i) To the next of kin of deceased person - Total of Rs. 48,000/-.
- (ii) To the injured person - Total of Rs. 15,000/-.

[English]

Chinese Officials in Myanmar

1391. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :
SHRI A.C. JOSE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Chinese Officials working on nine Myanmar bases" appearing in Sunday Pioneer dated May 10, 1998; and
- (b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per intelligence input, China has been assisting Myanmar in installation of surveillance and Communication systems in some of its islands in the Bay of Bengal. Chinese personnel have been visiting Myanmar in this connection. Myanmar authorities have informed us that they do not permit any foreign country to station its personnel on its territory. They have further informed that the monitoring facilities are being utilised for surveillance of their Exclusive Economic Zone.

Import of Stainless Steel

1392. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether good quality of stainless steel is being imported in the form of scrap or seconds;
- (b) if so, the quantity of such imported steel;
- (c) whether Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur and other indigenous producers are adversely affected thereby; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Provisions exist in the Customs Tariff Act and the Rules made thereunder to check the mis-declaration of imports. The import of some stainless steel items has shown an increasing trend during the last 3 years. The details of imports for the last three years are as follows:

	(Qty. in'000 tonnes)		
	1995-96	1996-97	Apr-Dec. '97
Finished Stainless steel			
Prime	46.5	33.1	13.7
Seconds	2.1	3.4	9.9
TOTAL :	48.6	36.5	23.6

(c) and (d) It may be difficult to establish a direct correlation between increase in import of stainless steel seconds and the performance of the domestic stainless steel producers. However, with the increase in customs duties announced in the budget 1998-99 it is expected that import of stainless steel prime and seconds will decrease.

[Translation]

Irregularities Committed in Awarding Contact for Gauge Conversion

1393. SHRI AJIT JOGI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether gross irregularities are committed in awarding contracts for gauge conversion ;
- (b) if so, whether the investigation of such cases has been handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation; and
- (c) if so, the number of such cases handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation and the time by which investigation work of such cases is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF