

- (b) 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) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

#### Retirement age of Air-Hostesses

3446. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :  
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :  
SHRIMATI USHA VERMA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a sequence to the enhancement of retiring age for Government and public sector employees to 60 years, Government also propose to raise the retirement age of air-hostesses with Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken in the matter ;

(c) whether air-hostesses are not allowed to fly as cabin crew member after a certain age; and

- (d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Air India and Indian Airlines have raised the age of retirement of their employees including air-hostesses from 58 to 60 years.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines allows its air hostesses to fly as Cabin Crew member till the age of retirement. In Air India air hostesses are given flying duties upto 50 years subject to medical fitness and thereafter they are given ground duties.

#### Price of Aluminium

3447. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :  
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :  
DR. SAJOJA V. :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the buyers of unwrought Aluminium in India have to pay a price equivalent to about US-\$1700/t as against the ruling average price of US-\$1400/t on LME;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is attributable to the extra high cost of

unwrought Aluminium metal that Indian manufacturers of semifabricated products have had to pay;

- (d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether the domestic demand growth for semifabricated Aluminium products like steel, foil and extrusions fell in 1997-98 only to 15% over 1996-97; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and corrective measures taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) The average LME price of unwrought aluminium was US\$ 1308 per Metric Tonne (MT) in June 1998. Importers of unwrought aluminium have to incur additional costs in the form of freight, insurance, customs duty, countervailing duty, special countervailing duty and terminal handling charges. As a result, the landed cost of imported unwrought aluminium to the Indian manufacturer of semi-fabricated products at an LME price of US\$ 1308 works out to approximately US \$ 1842 per MT. As against this, the price of domestically produced unwrought aluminium by the National Aluminium Company (NALCO) during June 1998 was Rs. 73166 per MT (equivalent to approximately US \$ 1702 @ exchange rate of US \$ 1 = Rs. 43). Thus, the price of domestically produced unwrought aluminium is lower than the landed cost of imported unwrought aluminium.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The price of domestically produced unwrought aluminium is lower than the landed cost of imported unwrought aluminium. However, market forces, fluctuations in LME prices, demand-supply situation, taxes and other commercial factors decide the price of unwrought aluminium to be paid by domestic semi-fabricators.

(e) Since most secondary producers/re-rollers/extruders are in the unorganised sector, complete information is not available. However, the three major secondary producers, viz. Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO), Indian Aluminium Company (INDAL) and Hindustan Aluminium Company (HINDALCO), who account for a substantial market share in rolled sheets, foils and extrusions, recorded a growth (provisional) of 16.2% in rolled sheets, 7.4% in foils and (-) 8.9% in extrusions in 1997-98 over 1996-97.

(f) Growth rate in the aluminium industry is largely dependent on the general growth in the economy.

#### SAIL COR

3448. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for withdrawing orders for SAIL COR by the Railways from Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur;

(b) whether both the Steel and Wagon Industry in West Bengal is suffering for withdrawal of orders by the Railways; and