

**Proposal to Develop 'Ponmudi' as a
Tourist Centre in Kerala**

5716 SHRI T BASHEER Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for the development of 'PONMUDI' a tourist spot in Trivandrum district of Kerala.

(b) whether the proposal includes schemes for rope way and trekking Huts at Ponmudi

(c) if so the details thereof and

(d) the action being taken by Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU)

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) No, Sir

(c) and (d) A proposal to construct a Health Club at Ponmudi was submitted by the State Government, which after examination was found to be not within the approved schemes for central financial assistance

[*Translation*]

Sail Office at Delhi

5717 SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any proposal to shift the head office of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. from Delhi to Ranchi.

(b) if so, the time by which it will be shifted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In view of the close day-to-day interaction between the Government and the Corporate Office of SAIL at Delhi, the need to consider shifting the head office of SAIL outside Delhi has not been felt

[*English*]

Mini Steel Plants

5718. SHRI ANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the mini steel plants are starved of basic raw materials.

(b) if so, the requirement of scrap for these plants, its availability indigenously and imports during the year 1988, 1989 and the first three months of 1990,

(c) the capacity utilisation of these steel plants during the said years/period; and

(d) the steps being taken to augment raw material supplies to them?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir

(b) It is estimated that about 2 million tonnes of steel melting scrap for the secondary steel sector are available for indigenous sources every year. In addition, import of scrap/HBI etc. by MSTC during the period 1988-1990 is as under:

1988-89 : 22.5 lakh tonnes.

1989-90 : 18.6 lakh tonnes.

It is difficult to estimate the total demand as it depends on the demand and availability of bars, rods and light structurals which are also produced by the main producers.

(c) Capacity utilization of the secondary sector during the last three years has been in the range of 45 to 50 percent

(d) Apart from import by MSTC, Government have recently allowed import of scrap under the "Import Replenishment Scheme." The indigenous production of Sponge Iron is also expected to go up considerably in the current year to meet the requirement of the mini steel industry. This will lead to better capacity utilization in the future.

Officers of SAIL

5719 SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers holding extended term of office in Steel Authority of India Limited

(b) whether their appointment is being reviewed, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) (a) No officer in SAIL excepting its Chairman is holding extended term of office beyond the date of superannuation

(b) and (c) Chairman SAIL's extended term is due to expire on 14th May 1990

Casual/Muster Roll Employees Working in AIR

5720. SHRI A. PRATAP SAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of casual/muster roll employees working in various stations of All India Radio; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to regularise their services?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Out of 100 All India Radio Stations, information from 70 Stations indicates that presently only 26 Casual employees are employed at 5 Stations namely, Ajmer, Allahabad, Dibrugarh, Gulbarga and Nagpur for short term period on rotation basis. Thus the number of casual employees employed by All India Radio Stations is very small

(b) Services of Casual Labourers are regularised in accordance with the Government's instructions on the subject.

Rate of Interest for Construction of Houses

5721 SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of financial institutions providing loans to private individuals, Government employees etc. for construction of houses

(b) the rate of interest charged by each financial institution,

(c) whether the interest rate is proposed to be reviewed, and