

metal has increased exorbitantly consequently upon the lifting of price and distribution control;

(b) if so, the details of its impact on other industries utilising aluminium as an input; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to control the price increase of aluminium metal?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Increase in Taxes on Tourist Coaches

*710. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great difficulty to run the tourist coaches due to hike in taxes on tourist coaches by certain State Governments including Governments of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether the tourist operators and hotel industry have also been affected due to hike in petrol rates;

(c) if so, the extent Union Government are considering to assist these operators; and

(d) whether Union Government have taken any steps in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The travel trade has indicated such a difficulty in the matter. However, since the subject of motor vehicles taxation is included in the State List to the 7th

Schedule to the Constitution, it is for the State Government to take action in the matter.

[Translation]

Awarding of Contracts in Steel Plants

*711. SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether contracts are awarded for supply of goods in public sector Steel Plants;

(b) if so, the names of the Plants and the contractors to whom contracts were awarded during the last three years and the value thereof;

(c) whether the norms and instructions prescribed in this regard were followed fully while awarding these contracts; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken by Government against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (d). The number of contracts awarded by the public sector steel plants run into several thousands. Generally the prescribed procedures are followed by the steel plants and in case of irregularities, appropriate action is taken. The compilation of the information regarding names of contractor, value of contracts and deviation from prescribed procedures etc. asked for would involve considerable time and labour which may not be commensurate with the result achieved.

Assistance to Educated Unemployed Youths in Rajasthan

*712. SHRI GULABCHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: