

other options available to them. Various steps for the development of the market and to protect the interest of investors are taken from time to time, which is an ongoing process and will continue.

#### **Setting up of Television Transmitters Unit in Rural Areas of Srikakulam**

10426. DR. VISHWANATHAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Television Transmitter unit is proposed to be set up in rural areas of Srikakulam during 1990-91;

(b) if so, the details of the locations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). Whereas a low power TV transmitter is already functioning at Srikakulam, the high power (10 KM) TV transmitter at Visakhapatnam also provides service in parts of Srikakulam district including rural areas. There is, however, no approved scheme at present to set up another TV transmitter in Srikakulam district. It is the endeavour of the Government to extend TV service to the remaining uncovered parts of the country including those in Srikakulam district as expeditiously as possible, dependent upon the availability of funds for this purpose.

#### **Loss to ITDC from Tourist Transport**

10427. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts are going on for some years to close down/reduce the transport fleet of India Tourism Development

Corporation (ITDC) on the ground that it is not economically viable to run transport activities under the ITDC any longer;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the loss in the transport activity of ITDC and efforts made to curtail/reduce the losses?

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 (c). The role of ITDC has been of a catalyst in providing transportation needs at tourist destinations. It has, therefore, been the policy of ITDC to withdraw from such places where private or other transport operators come forward to cater to the transport needs of Tourists. Accordingly from 1983 onwards, ITDC closed down nine transport units and has further plans to reduce its fleet in the coming years so as to retain ultimately a hard core of about 50 vehicles at locations, commercially viable. The main reasons for the loss was provision of competitive transportation facilities by the small private operators/State Tourism Development corporations whose wage costs and overheads were lower.

Efforts are being made to reduce losses and improve performance by changing and enlarging the product mix besides laying more emphasis on tour and travel activity. For the year 1989-90, the Ashok Travels and Tours' profit is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 53 lakhs.

#### **Loan from I.M.F.**

10428. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan granted by the International Monetary Fund to India during the last Financial year;

(b) whether the same was fully utilised for the projects for which it was meant; and

(c) the amount of loan expected from I.M.F. during the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No loan was sought from the IMF during the last financial year.

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

#### **Distribution of Iron and Steel Items by SAIL**

10429. SHRI KESHARI LAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether scarce steel items like Rounds/GP sheets (.63/.5 mm) in special/ordinary quality have been released by Branch Sales Office, SAIL, New Delhi under TBS/LTC during January-March/April-June, 1990 by violating distribution norms;

(b) the allocation made percentage wise for Rounds/GP Sheets in both the qualities during the above period;

(c) whether these percentages of allocation were applied uniformly to all customers;

(d) whether pre-offers/additional pre-offers quantities of GP sheets, LFQ were subsequently changed into ordinary quality while status 'A' demand for ordinary quality was pending; and

(e) if so, the quantities so changed alongwith the details of the Parties and the reasons for such change?

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

(b) There is no percentage-wise allocation for rounds/G.P. Sheets.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) When alternative quality material was offered against TBS of January-March, 1989, there were no pending Status 'A' bookings for the material.

(e) About 166 tonnes of ordinary quality G.P. Sheets were supplied by SAIL to five parties against LFQ G.P. sheets, so as to obviate the possibility of payment of penalties against TBS Booking.

#### **Advertising expenditure on Soft Drinks and Product Cost**

10430. SHRI SHIKIHO SEMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that huge expenditure is incurred by the manufacturers of soft drinks on the advertising/publicity resulting in higher cost of the products;

(b) if so, the average cost of publicity expenditure on each bottle;

(c) whether Government propose to put any ceiling on advertising expenditure to bring down the prices; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

#### **Permission for Testifying of 7 CLs Outside Wharf Area**

10431. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: