

duties. There has been no overall change in this respect.

(b) and (c). Market promotion measures abroad and product development efforts in India for Indian leather footwear to be competitive in world market in terms of price and quality have helped in increasing exports and these measures are proposed to be continued and intensified, wherever required.

[*Translation*]

Right of States to Impose Tax on Mineral Rights

8371. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

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

(a) whether the State Governments of Bihar and West Bengal are authorised to impose tax on mineral rights under article 277 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, whether other States have similar authority to impose this tax;

(c) if not the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to give the right of imposing this tax to other States also in order to remove this anomaly?

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

(b) to (d). Article 277 of the Constitution of India gives validity only to the taxes, fees, duties, cesses which were being levied lawfully by the Government of any State immediately before the commencement of

the Constitution. It does not authorise the State Governments to impose any such levies afresh.

State Governments derive such authority from the various Entries of the List-II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution and this includes taxes on mineral rights subject to any limitation imposed by Parliament by law relating to mineral development.

Mining Plans

8372. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the neo-literates and people belonging to weaker sections are sustaining their livelihood from small mines in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to exempt such persons from the provisions of submitting mining plans; and

(c) whether Union Government also propose to make a provision in the rules so that mining plan could be submitted after the mining lease has been approved by the State Government but before the conclusion of agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No person can undertake mining operations in any area except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a mining lease granted under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 framed there under. The main objects of this statute are to ensure proper regulation and development of minerals, systematic and scientific mining,

mineral conservation and protection of natural environment. The provisions of the statute are equally applicable to both big and small mines.

(b) Only with a view to achieve the aforesaid objects of mineral development and conservation, the provision of submitting mining plan, irrespective of size of mines, was incorporated through suitable amendments in the statute in 1987. Therefore, no relaxation to exempt any category of mines is contemplated.

(c) A change in the timing of submission of mining plan for grant of mining lease has already been made through an amendment to the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 with effect from 19.10.1989. An applicant can now submit the duly approved mining plan within a period of six months after the precise area of the proposed lease is communicated to him by the State Government.

Promotion of Tourism

8373 SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether tourist industry has been hit hard by recent hike in domestic fares which cover Indian Airlines, Vayudoot and Railways, and

(b) the steps taken to create awareness abroad about India as a tourist destination and the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK) (a) The flow to tourist traffic of India is not very price sensitive. The main motivations for foreign tourists to India are the variety of attractions and the cultural heritage of the country.

(b) The Overseas offices of the Department of Tourism create awareness about India abroad and promote it as a tourist destination through a sustained marketing strategy which includes printing/distribution of tourist literature, posters, production of films and audiovisuals and publicity through press, Television, and other promotional activities such as participating in Trade Fairs, holding of Seminars, Conferences, India Evenings etc.

As a result of these measures the tourist arrivals in 1989 increased by 7.8% from the previous year.

[English]

Alleged Intermediaries Role in Purchase of Steel Plant machinery for Steel Plants

8374 SHRIBALGOPAL MISHRA Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the role of some businessmen as alleged intermediaries in the purchase of steel plant machinery for Vizag and other steel plants

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and

(c) the steps being taken to bring the intermediaries to book?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Missing Bofors Counter Trade Files

8375 SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state