

The Council has estimated that about 95% of the country's cashew exports are effected through Cochin Port.

**Waiver of interest on loans availed by Punalur Paper Mills**

1622. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) has agreed to waive the entire interest on loans availed by the Punalur Paper Mills in Kerala;

(b) the main bankers/financiers of the Punalur Paper Mills;

(c) whether all concerned banks/financiers were consulted on the matter of waiver of interest;

(d) whether further advance for revival of the unit is proposed to be made by the banks, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Unit is likely to commence functioning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) has agreed to consider a one-time settlement proposal from Punalur Paper Mills (PPM) subject to certain terms and conditions.

(b) Canara Bank is the sole banker to the unit and ICICI is the lead institution. The other financial institutions involved are IDBI and IFCI.

(c) Bank and financial institutions were kept informed by ICICI regarding institutions' willingness to consider company's proposal for one-time settlement.

(d) The promoter of the company had recently indicated that he does

not require any financial assistance from institutions and bank for running the unit.

(e) In view of uncertainties regarding settlement and other factors to be taken care of by the promoters of the company, ICICI is unable to indicate a time for reopening of the mill.

[*Translation*]

**Telecast of Life History of Great Personalities**

1623. SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allot more time to telecast the life history of great personalities who have inspired the people; and

(b) whether Government propose to make television the pivot of social change by making radical changes in its programming by telecasting patriotic programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to telecast programmes on personalities of national eminence to acquaint the viewers with the tremendous contributions made by them in the various fields of national life and to motivate them to emulate them in the interest of the overall development of the country.

**Construction of yatri-niwas at Udaipur (Rajasthan)**

1624. SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a 'Yatri Niwas' for the stay of domestic and foreign tourists visiting Udaipur in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when the work thereon is likely to start;

(c) whether tourists face numerous difficulties due to non-availability of cheap place to stay because of a large number of tourists visiting Udaipur; and

(d) if so, the assistance likely to be provided by Union Government to solve this difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) to (d) The Central Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Govern-ment for construction of Yatri Niwa-ses on the basis of specific proposals. There is no proposal from the Govern-ment of Rajasthan for construction of Yatri Niwas at Udaipur.

[English]

#### Distribution of steel materials

1625. SHRI NANDLAL MEENA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities have been committed in the matter of allotment and use of quota of steel in violation of the prescribed rules causing finan-cial loss to the country;

(b) if so, the details of the allot-ment of steel quota during the last three years party-wise, date-wise, and quantity-wise, use-wise etc.;

(c) whether investigations are made as to whether the quota of steel is used for the purpose for which it is allotted;

(d) whether cases have come to the notice that undue favours have been shown in the matter of allotment of steel, channels, angles, pig irons etc.; and

(e) if so, whether there is any pro-posal to probe the entire matter thoroughly and to bring to book the persons responsible for the undue favour and causing of loss to the nation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOS-WAMI): (a) to (e) Inspections are carried out by the regional offices of DCI&S to check misutilisation of Iron and Steel materials received from re-gulated sources. The regional offi-ces issue appropriate orders where such misutilisation is established. The Main producers also investigate allegations regarding violation of JPC distribution guidelines and take suitable action.

#### Correspondence between M.Ps. and Ministers

1626. SHRI NANDLAL MEENA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUS-TICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received in his Ministry from Members of Parliament from 1 February, 90 to 31 July, 90;

(b) how many of these letters are pending replies;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of steps taken to ex-pedite the replies; and

(e) the time by which the replies are expected to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOS-WAMI): (a) 205.

(b) 11.

(c) to (e) The references pending reply are in the process of examina-tion and active consideration. The replies are expected to be sent shortly.