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**Opening of AIR Station at Surat,
 Gujarat**

2669. **SHRI C.D. GAMIT:**
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken a decision to open an All India Radio station at Surat in Gujarat and if so, when;

(b) the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be opened there and the concrete steps being taken by Government therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir. The approved Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) of AIR included a scheme for setting up a radio station at Surat in Gujarat.

(b) Though the requisition for handing over of a site for the project was placed with the State Government in July, '86, the site was handed over to AIR only on 24-6-1988, causing delay in execution of the project.

(c) The civil works have been awarded and the technical area is envisaged to be ready shortly. Transmitter and Studio equipment have also been received. The proposed radio station at Surat is envisaged to be ready for commissioning by the end of 1990-91.

[English]

179 *Steel*
Modernisation of D.S.P.

2670. **SHRI AMAL DATTA:**
 Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of advance amount normally paid for supply of

equipment and services to the Indian contractors by the Steel Authority of India Limited;

(b) whether the advance amount paid to Birla Technical Services in respect of the consultancy/technical services to be rendered for modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant was in accordance with the norms; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Normally 10% advance is paid to Indian Contractors by SAIL for supply of equipment and services. However, in some cases higher advances are given depending upon the nature of job.

(b) For Durgapur Steel Plant modernisation project, SAIL had agreed to 20% advance at all indigenous contractors of the foreign packages, including to Birla Technical Services.

(c) During negotiations with the tenderers, the parties had offered reduction in prices provided certain facilities like higher mobilisation advance were allowed. The parties averred that they had to tie up their input supplies etc. as cost escalations allowed were limited. The Apex Committee had, therefore, decided to allow the plea for higher advance as it was considered to be in the overall interests of SAIL.

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 [Translation]

Trade Agreement with Italy

2671. **SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the trade agreements signed with Italy during the period from January 1985 to January 1990;

(b) the number of Italian Companies which have invested their capital in

India during this period and the details of investment made;

(c) whether the import of marble from Italy in large quantity had adversely affected the marble production in India; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) No trade agreement has been signed with Italy during the period January 1985 to January 1990. However, two credit agreements were signed with Italy in 1985 and 1988 extending a credit line by Italy of US \$ 400 million and US \$ 250 million respectively.

(b) During the period from January 1985 to December 1989, 61 approvals for foreign collaboration involving investment by Italian companies to the extent of Rs. 47.01 crores were given.

(c) and (d) Government adopts a 'restrictive' import policy with a view to protecting the indigenous industry.

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Smuggling Across Indo-Bangladesh

2672. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any complaint regarding smuggling of goods into Bangladesh through border districts of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of seized goods at Indo-Bangladesh border during the last three years, upto July, 1990; and

(c) the steps taken to check this smuggling?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Available reports indicate that the Indo-Bangladesh border including the West Bengal sector continues to be

sensitive to smuggling. The value of contraband seized during the last three years upto July, 1990 in the Indo-Bangladesh sector of the land border is given below:

Year	Value of contraband seized (Rs. in crores)
1988	7.63
1989	15.01
1990 (up to July)	9.43*

*Figure is provisional

(c) Anti-Smuggling drive has been intensified. The anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country including that on the Indo-Bangladesh border has been geared up and close-co-ordination is maintained between all the agencies concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling.

[English] 182

Assistance given by IFCI for projects in industrially backward areas in Tamil Nadu

2673. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Industrial projects located in industrially backward areas in Tamil Nadu for which the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) has sanctioned financial assistance during 1989-90; and

(b) the amount of financial assistance sanctioned by the IFCI during 1989-90 for the above projects?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) The Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) has reported that it had sanctioned during the year 1989-90 (April-March) assistance of Rs. 42.79 crores to 34 projects which are located in the industrially notified less developed areas in the State of Tamil Nadu.