

Separate Channel for Regional Programmes

* 98. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a separate channel exclusively for regional programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). Second channels already sixty in the TV stations at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. But setting up second channels exclusively for regional programmes would involve a lot of time and money. However, the Govt. is proposing to increase regional programmes on the second channel.

Recommendation of law Commission regarding Judicial Reforms

* 99 CH. JAGDEEP DHANKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Law Commission regarding Judicial Reforms have since been considered by Government;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken or initiated thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). The recommendations of the Law Commission regarding Judicial Reforms are contained in its 114th to 129th and 131st

Reports. Copies of all the Reports have been laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament. The recommendations contained in the 119th Report had not been accepted by the Government. The remaining recommendations of the Law Commission are at various stages of consideration by the Government.

(c) The recommendations of the Law Commission are being examined in consultation with the various Ministries, the State Governments, the Bar Council of India and the Judiciary.

Import of Steel Skull Scrap by MSTC

* 100. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited (MSTC) imported 28,000 tonnes of steel skull scrap from Qatar in hard currency without pre-shipment inspection;

(b) whether any pre-shipment inspection was made by the MSTC or approved inspection agency thereof;

(c) whether the entire quantity was allotted to a private party without pre-registration of demand;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the internal vigilance of MSTC indicated the deal; and

(f) whether Government have taken or contemplate any action in the matter and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). During 1988-89, Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC) placed orders for the

import of 88,000 tonnes of steel skull scrap from Qatar of which about 35,000 tonnes were actually shipped. Under the prevalent system pre-shipment inspection of scrap is not done by MSTC but by inspection agencies. In addition, the actual users are also free to do so. Out of the above, inspection of 21,000 tonnes was to be done by actual users and the balance by inspection agencies.

(c) and (d). Pre-registration of any particular variety of carbon steel melting scrap is not a pre-requisite for allotment purposes. Based on actual registration made by the consumers, various kinds of scrap can be allocated to them depending upon their preference and availability. In 1988-89, MSTC imported 35,000 tonnes of steel skull scrap from Qatar. It was given to M/s. Mukand Ltd. and 8 other consumers. M/s Mukand Ltd. was allotted about 27,000 tonnes of this material.

(e) The internal vigilance of MSTC had examined the matter, but had not found any malafide.

(f) The Government is examining the issue afresh.

Hot Rolling Mill at Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur

*101. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Hot Rolling Mill at Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). The proposal to set up a Hot Rolling Mill

at Alloy Steels Plant at Durgapur is one of the alternatives currently being examined by the Government for establishing indigenous facilities to hot roll stainless steel slabs for further cold rolling at Salem Steel Plant.

World Bank Senior Vice President's Statement Regarding Foreign Ex- change Constraint

*102. SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement stated to have been made by the Senior Vice-President for Policy, Planning & Research in the World Bank to the effect that foreign exchange constraint was hindering Indian's development;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon; and

(c) the corrective steps, if any, proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). In a statement published in the book entitled "The Indian Economy-Recent Development and Future Prospects", Dr. David Hopper, Senior Vice President for Policy, Planning and Research in the World Bank has observed as follows:

"From my vantage point, that of World Bank lending and the functioning of the Consortium for assistance to India, I am obviously deeply concerned with the role of the foreign exchange constraint on Indian development. The foreign exchange constraint is not new, it was there right from the beginning of the independence period."

The book referred to above was edited by Mr. Robert E. B. Lucas of Boston University