

Foreign Airlines duped Country

*510. SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA:
Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has been duped to the tune of Rs. 50 crores by the foreign airlines as per news-item appearing in "Current" Weekly of August 22, 1981;

(b) if so, full facts thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered by the Government; and

(d) if not, what other action has been taken against the defaulting foreign airlines?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). No Sir. However, some foreign airlines are reported to be indulging in unethical practices in order to attract passengers by offering sizable discounts. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is aware of the same and intends to conduct a market survey shortly in an attempt to eradicate such practices.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government will decide on the course of action on the basis of the results of IATA Market Survey.

Kudremukh Iron ore Project

*511. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:
SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA
MURTHY:

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

(a) whether one year after its completion, the Kudremukh Iron Ore Project in Karnataka is still facing uncertainties;

(b) whether all efforts to sort out outstanding issues with Iran have failed;

(c) what efforts have been made to find other buyers for the concentrates made at Kudremukh; and

(d) what steps are being taken to sustain this Rs. 650 crores project from languishing?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Kudremukh Iron Ore Project cannot be said to have been completed yet as only one out of the four production lines of the project has been commissioned so far. The project is not facing any uncertainty so far as its completion and operation is concerned. Only in regard to the sale of its product alternate arrangements have yet to be finalised.

(b) No, Sir. The negotiations are expected to be resumed shortly.

(c) Vigorous efforts have been made to find alternative markets. Romania has agreed to buy approximately 3.5 million tonnes of the concentrate over a period of 3 years starting from 1981-82 as part of the contract to set up a pellet plant. It is expected that other orders would materialise as a result of the efforts being made.

(d) A part from sale of concentrate to other parties, it is expected that Iran may ultimately take about 4.5 million tonnes a year after its plants are set up. A pellet plant is also being set up at Mangalore to convert 3 million tonnes of concentrate into pellets for exports.

Use of Imported machine by M/s. Southern Bottlers (P) Limited

*512. SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 672 on 3rd April 1981 regarding licence to M/s. Southern Bottlers (Private) Limited and state:

(a) whether M/s. Southern Bottlers (Private) Limited are using the imported machine;