

and Tumkur districts and also in Hassan and Mysore Districts? If a survey has been conducted in these districts, will the Minister kindly give the estimated availability of this mineral in these places?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as Chitaldurg, Chikmagalur and Tumkur districts are concerned, I have given the indications. In so far as the figure 1.235 million tonnes is concerned, I may state that this is mainly from the Hassan and Mysore districts. In other districts a survey has not been undertaken so far because detailed studies are still going on.

Setting up of units for producing stainless sheets

*559. **SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up units to produce stainless steel sheets to save foreign exchange; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). In order to meet the gap between the demand and availability of stainless steel sheets, all-out efforts are being directed towards commissioning the Salem Steel Project on schedule. With this commissioning, imports of cold rolled sheets will be reduced considerably and imports will instead be not rolled materials only. Additionally, schemes for modernisation/expansion of Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur etc. are under active consideration of Government which, coupled with the diversification already allowed to cold rolling units in the private sector, will result in further reduction of imports, both of cold rolled and hot rolled materials.

SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA: What is the quantity of stainless steel sheets purchased from foreign countries

last year and how does the Government propose to meet the requirements of stainless steel in the country?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the total import for 1979-80 is concerned, it was 34942 tonnes; in the current year, upto December, 1980, it has been reduced to some extent, 4454 tonnes. In regard to the question of meeting the demands, we are, on the one hand, trying to augment the domestic availability and if we cannot meet the domestic demand fully from our indigenous production and it is not possible to do that immediately, we have to do so by import.

SHRI RASABEHARI BEHERA: Since stainless steel is a by-product from charge chrome plant and is a labour intensive industry, being a critical item for defence, space, missiles, rockets, etc. and the need is maximum, when will the charge chrome plant at Keonjhar, Orissa be commissioned or the work will commence?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as I recollect the Letter of Intent for the Orissa was issued on 20th April, 1979 and it takes roughly 36 to 37 months to complete the project.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: The hon. Minister in his answer has stated that schemes for modernization/expansion of Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur etc. are under consideration. I would like to know, when the consideration stage will be passed and decision taken for expansion and modernization of the Alloy Steel Plant and what will be the production figure after expansion and modernization?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: As the hon. Member is aware, are considering the expansion and modernization programme of the Alloy Steel Plant in two phases. So far as the first phase, the consideration stage, is concerned, it is over and the implementation stage is going on. The production capacity will go up from 100,000 tonnes

to 160,000 tonnes and it is excepted that it will be completed by June, 1981.

So far as the second stage of expansion is concerned, it is still under consideration and no decision has yet been taken.

Increase in Frequency of Delhi-Bhubaneswar direct flight

*560, SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the fact that more and more foreign tourists are being a stop at Bhubaneswar for the have considered the desirability of increasing the frequency of Delhi-Bhubaneswar direct flight and also creating a stop at Bhubaneswar for the Calcutta-Madras flight:

(b) if so, whether Government have made any study into the matter; and

(c) the findings of such a study and by what time these flights will be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is fact or not that as a result of introduction of the direct flight from Delhi to Bhubaneswar, the tourist traffic, international as well as domestic, has increased to Orissa. Secondly, is there any further scope for increasing the tourist traffic to Orissa as a result of introduction of more flights?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): The total load factor between

Delhi and Bhubaneswar in the month of January and February was between 36 per cent and 41 per cent. That includes the tourists' traffic also. Thus, the load factor or the traffic factor between Delhi and Bhubaneswar is not enough to justify the increase of frequency of the flight between Delhi and Bhubaneswar. However, I would like to assure the hon member that if the load factor improves in future, this question will be considered.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: I asked something and got a tangent reply. I wanted to know whether the tourist traffic to Orissa, international and domestic, has increased as a result of the direct flight, but I did not get answer.

I would like to know Sir, since Orissa is rich in beauties of nature and man's aesthetic achievements in the form of archaeological and historical monuments and the total number of monuments in Orissa are more than the total number of monuments in the entire country in the form of Black Pagoda at Konarak, the Jagannath Temple, Dhauligiri, Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Chilka Bird Sanctuary and then the 84 hot springs in Deulajhri in Athmallik subdivision and Tikerpara area and Sir, when Government itself wants to promote wild life, tourism, cultural tourism and social tourism, and since tourism is also conducive to growth of commerce and industry and trade, what steps will Government take to connect Bhubaneswar with Bombay, Madras and Hyderabad so as to increase the tourists traffic and thereby justify the load factor which the Minister was saying in his reply is not enough?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, the question was regarding load factor or the occupancy of seats between Delhi and Bhubaneswar. So far as the seat factor Bhubaneswar, Bombay and Madras is concerned, that has not been worked out because there is no flight between Bhubaneswar, Madras and Bombay.