

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) and (b). Section 8 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, provides that the maximum period of a mining lease in the case of coal, iron ore or bauxite shall not exceed 30 years and in the case of other minerals 20 years. Government has received a suggestion that a minimum period should also be statutorily provided. The matter is under examination.

#### **Export of Tea**

**\*69. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of tea is increasing this year;

(b) what is the estimated increase this year over the previous year; and

(c) to which country the largest quantity of our tea is exported?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) and (b). For the period April to September, 1980, the exports of tea from India are provisionally placed at 92.35 M. Kgs. valued at Rs. 175.37 crores as against 89.16 M. Kgs. valued at Rs. 151.97 crores during the corresponding period of last year, thus showing an increase of 3.20 M. Kgs. in quantity and Rs. 23.40 crores in value.

(c) To the United Kingdom.

#### **Port-Based Steel Plant at Paradip (Orissa)**

**\*70. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:**

**SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH THAKUR:**

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

(a) whether a firm decision has been taken to set up a port-based steel plant at Paradip in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of the project (including estimated cost and the tentative period for completion);

(c) whether the agreement with the foreign firm who has agreed to set up the steel plant at Paradip has been signed; and

(d) if not, when this is proposed to be signed?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) and (b). Subject to satisfactory conclusion of negotiations with foreign parties in regard to prices, quantum and terms of financing package, terms of implementation and buy-back arrangements for the products, a decision, in principle, has been taken to set up a new steel plant at Paradip. The proposed plant will have a capacity of 3.0 million tonnes per annum to be developed in almost two equal stages with possible provision for further expansion. The first stage for which negotiations are presently contemplated is expected to take about 48 months for its completion after a firm decision has been taken on the setting up of the proposed plant based on the offers in hand. As regards cost, it will be premature to give any details at this stage since the terms and conditions of foreign technical and financial assistance have still to be negotiated further with the parties concerned.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) This would depend on the outcome of proposed negotiations with the concerned parties.

#### **Unutilised capacity of Air India**

**\*71. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is facing the dilemma of greater capacity than anticipated traffic;