

position for installation of an integrated steel plant;

(d) whether the location of the Vijayanagar Plant in the South will be favourable from the point of view of distribution of the products to the Southern Region;

(e) whether the location will serve decentralisation both from national and strategic considerations; and

(f) whether MECON has been asked to prepare a feasibility report on the Vijayanagar Steel Plant within three months from October in view of cost escalations?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Though the site for Vijayanagar Steel Plant is in the close proximity of sources for iron ore and raw materials like limestone and dolomite, this advantage is more than off-set by the distance involved in the movement of coking coal which is a massive input, next only to iron ore.

(d) and (e). Whereas the proposed location would be conducive to economic distribution of finished products for the Southern region, or conform to the concept of decentralisation, there are several other compelling considerations of techno-economic nature which have also to be met in deciding upon an appropriate location.

(f) MECON have been asked to make studies of alternate technologies and product-mix with a view to contain the use of coking coal and the movement of finished products and also to up-date the Detailed Project Report in order to incorporate unit sizes of major production units to conform to those being installed now in other plants in the country. SAIL expects to have an interim report from MECON within three months and the final report within six months.

### **Construction of Calicut Airport**

**\*79. SHRI E. K. IMBICHIBAVA:**

**SHRI K. KUNHAMBU:**

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

(a) whether the construction work of the Calicut Airport has since been started; and

(b) what is the present position of the Airport at Calicut?

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA):** (a) No, not yet, Sir.

(b) An estimate amounting to Rs. 2.52 crores for development of Karipur airport suitable for HS-748 aircraft had been prepared. However, it has now been decided to construct the airport at Karipur suitable for Boeing 737 for which estimates are being revised.

### **Indo-United States Trade Relations**

**\*80. SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR:**

**SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Washington has conveyed to Government that they will not recognise the applicability of multi-lateral trade negotiations agreement to India;

(b) whether this has caused a very serious setback to Indo-U.S. trade relations and will affect our exports to that country; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken the question to the Government of USA so that the Indian exports to that country do not suffer as a result of the above decision and if so, the outcome thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) to (c). In respect of one of the agreements negotiated in the Tokyo Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, namely, the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, the US Government have invoked the non-application clause *vis-a-vis* India. As a consequence of this action, the US Government will not apply the test of material injury to domestic industry before levying countervailing duties on the subsidised dutiable products imported from India as required under the above agreement. When the USA had initially taken action, countervailing duty proceedings against certain textile products having a large annual export coverage were in progress and it looked as if the US action would cause a serious setback to Indian exports. However, the US Government have subsequently dropped the countervailing duty proceedings against textiles on finding no subsidy. At present the US action is directly affecting the exports of only industrial fasteners from India on which countervailing duty has been imposed without any consideration of injury. The uncertain trade environment created by possible imposition of countervailing duties on other dutiable products without proving injury is likely to have a general adverse effect on India's exports.

Government of India held bilateral consultations with the Government of the USA to resolve the issue, but no mutually acceptable solution could be found. India, has, therefore, filed a complaint before the GATT Council which has on 10 November, 1980 agreed to establish a panel to investigate and report on the complaint.

#### **Insulated Boxes for Marine Products**

**601. SHRI R. NEELALOHITHADASAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Marine Products Export Develop-

ment Authority is working out a scheme to supply insulated boxes at 50 per cent subsidy to boat owners;

(b) whether Government propose to lay on the Table a statement showing the names of boat owners and the registration numbers of the Boat, the number of boxes supplied under the scheme to him and the amount subsidised for supplies of boxes to him; and

(c) the price per box at present as compared to purchases at the time soon after the beginning of the scheme to supply boxes?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, as the statement would be voluminous and as Annual Report of the Marine Products Export Development Authority containing information on various development activities is laid on the Table of the House annually.

(c) The Marine Products Export Development Authority purchased these boxes at Rs. 485.00 per box, excluding tax, from the commencement of the scheme in 1978 and the price remains unchanged till date.

#### **Development of Tourist Spots on Indo-Napalese Border**

**602. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7422 on the 8th August, 1980, regarding development of birth-place of Vidyapati and other places and state:

(a) whether places like Kalna, Giriasthan etc. are on the Indo-Napalese border, the tourist and pilgrims visiting in one journey these two gates in India and the other two in Nepal in one stretch;

(b) whether the other Centres like Ahilyasthan, Gautamkund, Bisfi,