

since been lifted ;

(b) if so, the reasons for reversing the decision taken earlier ; and

(c) the loss suffered by the Airport Authority of India as a result of imposition of the ban earlier ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) The ban on entry of visitors in the Terminal Building at Delhi Airport has been lifted. There was no ban on entry of visitors at Bombay Airport.

(b) The ban at Delhi Airport was introduced to reduce congestion and pending development of an area for the exclusive use of visitors. On this area being made functional the ban was lifted.

(c) For the period 24.10.1983 to 1.11.1983 the loss of revenue was approximately Rs. 36,000/-.

Meeting to Explore Increase of Iron Ore Export through Paradip Port

*300 SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :
SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any meeting was convened by the Central Government to discuss possibilities of increasing exports of iron ore through Paradip Port ;

(b) if so, the details regarding the representatives who participated in this meet ;

(c) whether any joint effort of MMTC and Orissa Mining Corporation had suggested placing a transport-cum-dredger at Paradip Port so as to enable large size vessels to use that port ; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the plan of iron ore authorities in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b). Commerce Minister convened two meetings on 3rd June, 1983 and 5th August, 1983 to discuss the continued procurement of iron ore by MMTC from the Eastern Zone and, inter-alia, the possibilities of increasing exports of iron ore through Paradip Port. A follow-up meeting on this matter was convened by the Commerce Secretary on 13th January, 1984. The participants in these meetings have been Chief Minister of Orissa (for Commerce Minister's meetings), Chief Secretary and concerned officials of Government of Orissa, Paradip Port Trust and Orissa Mining Corporation, and for the Government of India, representatives of the Ministries of Shipping and Transport, Steel and Mines, Deptt. of Labour and MMTC.

(c) and (d). As per the decisions taken at the meeting convened by Commerce Minister in June, 1983, Government of Orissa was asked to carry out a detailed technical examination, in consultation with Ministry of Shipping and Transport, of the possibility of locating a transhipper-cum-dredger at Paradip Port to augment the loading capacity of the port and to find a continuing solution to the problem of siltation at Paradip Port. In follow-up of this, a joint team comprising representatives of Orissa Mining Corporation and MMTC have undertaken a feasibility study on this matter. This preliminary report is that a transhipper can usefully be placed at Paradip to enable larger sized vessels to lift iron ore from this port. However, because of the cyclone prone weather conditions in the Paradip area, it would be possible to use transhipper at best for a period of five months in the year.

Further details, such as availability of transhipper, possibility of hire/purchase of a transhipper, increased cost of iron ore exports as a result of use of transhipper, and consultations with foreign buyers in this regard, and not being examined before a final decision is taken in the matter.

Visit of Tourists to North Eastern Region

*301. SHRI BISHNU PRASAD : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL