

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I have said that it will be possible within the next two or three months to clear it. What more can I say?

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: Will the Minister tell us that in the three years of Janata rule... (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you agitated? Let him have his own say.

SHRI SANJAY GANDHI: In the three years of Janata rule when that Government was in alliance with the CPI(M) or it was given active support by CPI(M), was any progress made in the construction of this airport?

(*Interruption*)

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, it is true that the work could have been started towards the end of the year 1976 itself and the DGCA actually submitted an estimate for Rs. 110 lakhs for construction of aerodrome at Calicut. But since 1977 till this year practically no steps have been taken to expedite this decision and go into action, and it was only on the 28th March 1980 that the DGCA again submitted a revised estimate for Rs. 2.5 crores for construction of an aerodrome suitable for HS-748 operation and as I have stated earlier, this proposal now by this Government is going to be finalised within the next two or three months.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Sir, what we are seeking for Calicut is not any charity or any special consideration. I want to inform you, since you have come to this House recently, that this was promised by Rafi Ahmed Kidwai. (*Interruptions*). Right from those days all successive governments have promised this airport.

That is because it is the nerve centre of the area, Malabar region,

with more than one crore of population, and the entire development has been stalled because of want of an airport facility. (*Interruptions*).

It was promised by Raj Bahadur Ji, Dr. Karan Singh and everybody and also allotments were made. Every year it lapsed. What I want to know from the hon. Minister is whether he is aware that Air India sells more than Rs. 80 lakhs or Rs. 1 crore worth of tickets in this city alone which is considered to be a small office, and whether he will, when he has the size of the airport to decide upon, take this factors also into consideration.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: All the factors have been taken into consideration and it is only after that we have come to this conclusion.

श्री रतन सिंह राजडा : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि 71 से यह प्लान बना हुआ था एयर पोर्ट के बारे में तो उस वक्त तो कांग्रेस की सरकार थी 76 तक, तो क्या यह सच बात है कि कांग्रेस (आई) और सी.पी.आई. के एलायंस की दजह से यह काम नहीं हुआ?

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is left in this small question. Next question, Shri Manoharlal Saini.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: Sir, I want an answer from the hon. Minister.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, this is an irrelevant question. It does not call for an answer.

कच्चे लोहे का उत्पादन

184. **श्री मनोहर लाल सैनी :** क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में प्रति वर्ष उत्पादित कच्चे लोहे की मात्रा कितनी है और उन देशों के नाम क्या हैं जिनमें हरियाणा में बने कच्चे लोहे का निर्यात किया जा रहा है; और

(ख) क्या हरियाणा में निकट भविष्य में किसी कच्चे लोहे के संयंत्र के लगाने का प्रस्ताव है?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The production of saleable pig iron in the country in 1979-80 was about 11 lakh tonnes. In 1980-81, it is expected to be about 15 lakh tonnes. Government is not aware of any pig iron being produced in Haryana. The question of its being exported to other countries does not, therefore, arise.

(b) No, Sir.

श्री मनोहर लाल सेनी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मन्त्री जी ने बताया कि सन् 1979-80 में 11 लाख टन पिग आयरन देश में पैदा हुआ और 1980-81 में 15 लाख टन पिग आयरन का उत्पादन होने की संभावना है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पूरे देश के आर्थिक इन्फ्लेक्शन को ध्यान में रखते हुए साल में कितना पिग आयरन देश को चाहिए और क्या देश इसमें आत्म-निर्भर है?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: In 1977-78 and 1978-79 production was of the order of 14 to 15 lakh tonnes. In 1978-79 suddenly production went down, and we had a production level of 14 lakh tonnes. Normally we used to export nearly 3 lakh tonnes, and the total domestic demand was of the order of 12 lakh tonnes. The demand has been more or less at same level.

श्री मनोहर लाल सेनी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पिग आयरन देश के औद्योगिक विकास के लिए बहुत आवश्यक है। मेरा मूल प्रश्न हरियाणा के मृताल्लिक था, हरियाणा के महेंद्रगढ़ जिले से पिछले कई सालों से जामान को आयरन-ओर एक्सपोर्ट होता रहा और सरकार कई बार वायदा करती रही कि वहाँ पर पिग आयरन प्लान्ट लगेगा। देश को आत्मनिर्भरता को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या सरकार इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि महेंद्रगढ़ जिले में पिग आयरन प्लान्ट स्थापित करने में लगाया जाये ?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am not aware of any such promise. If the hon. Member can give some more information, I can look into it, but we cannot have a steel plant wherever there is concentration of iron ore, because this country has iron ore deposits of more than 15,000 million tonnes.

SHRI A. T. PATIL: What is the projection of the probable requirements of this country of pig iron for the next five years, and what is the projection of the probable production of pig iron during the next five years? Will we be able to export or not?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as export is concerned, it is known to hon. Members that we put a ban on it, and that is still continuing. This year's production has been at the level of 15 lakh tonnes as I have already indicated in the text of my main answer. The expected demand would be more. Roughly we are calculating at the rate of 8 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 185. Absent. Q. 186. Absent. Q. 187. Absent. I take very serious note of it. I will have to do something. For the whole of the next session, I would like to remind these Members their questions will be cut out.

SHRI JOTIRMOY BOSU: I want to make a submission on this. We have been writing letters so that the Lok Sabha can establish a co-ordination cell. Members do not come to know the business of the House. Questions are circulated only three days in advance.

MR. SPEAKER: They should give us notice, that is all.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI: It is balloted eight days before.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: One can be absent-minded, but not absent.

MR. SPEAKER: That is only natural. This is unnatural.

Loans to Weaker Sections of Society

*188. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that asking for guarantees and sureties in respect of loans of less than Rs. 5,000 has discouraged Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of society who have not benefited properly so far as the question of disbursement of loans particularly in the villages is concerned;

(b) whether Government are also aware that even for taking small loans, people are asked to make frequent trips to banks' offices, fill up forms and affix photographs in spite of clear instructions that photographs should not be asked for from literate farmers; and

(c) the details regarding the steps being taken to increase the flow of credit to the Scheduled Castes and to remove the impediments in their getting it?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Government and the Reserve Bank of India have already initiated various steps to accelerate the flow of credit of weaker sections of society including those of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is specifically provided that the loans upto Rs. 5000 for agricultural purposes should be given against the hypothecation of crops/moveable assets created out of the loan amount and that no guarantee should be stipulated for such loans. The commercial banks have also been advised to ensure that at least 50 per cent of

their total agricultural advances would go to the small and marginal farmers by the end of March, 1982. Recently, a review was made of the share of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes borrowers in the advances of public sector banks and they have been requested to take measures to ensure that the credit needs of this section of society are met in an increasing measure.

(b) and (c). Reserve Bank had issued instructions in March, 1979 that borrowers who were literate and were able to affix their signatures to the application forms should not be compulsorily required to attach a copy of their photograph. For illiterate borrowers since it was considered necessary that a photograph might be affixed, Reserve Bank had instructed that for loans upto Rs. 5000 to small and marginal farmers labourers, the banks should not only meet the cost but also make arrangements for taking of photographs. State Bank of India adopt this procedure for literate farmers also. Instructions have been issued that complaints in regard to delays in the sanctioning of loans should be dealt with promptly.

Some of the other steps being taken to increase the flow of credit to the small and marginal farmers including scheduled castes are enumerated below:

(i) Raising the target of banks lending of their aggregate credit to the beneficiaries of the 20-Point Procent to 40 per cent.

(ii) Banks evolving special schemes tailored to the requirements of the beneficiaries of the 20-Point Programmes.

(iii) Establishment of more Regional Rural Banks.

(iv) Adoption by banks of simplified application forms in regional languages as also of simplified lending procedures including relaxed security and margin norms in their lending to agriculture.