

Raising Capacity of Darbhanga Air Station

733. SHRIBHOGENDRAJHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a demand for raising the capacity of Darbhanga AIR Station so as to cover the Maithili Speaking Population of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the Government's response thereto and the steps contemplated to fulfil this long standing demand?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to continued constraints of financial resources and relative priorities, it has not been possible to consider the upgradation of power of Darbhanga transmitter so far. However, this will be kept in view while formulating the future expansion plans of All India Radio.

Import of High Grade Limestone

734. SHRI Y.S. RAJA SEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are importing high grade limestone on a large scale;

(b) if so, the quantity of high grade limestones imported during the last three years and the foreign exchange incurred thereon; and

(c) the measures being taken to maximise indigenous production of limestone so as to cut its import?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Union Government is not importing any limestone but Steel Authority of India Ltd., Tata Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. and Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd. import some quantities of low silica high grade lime-stone.

(b) The quantities imported and the foreign exchange spent thereon by the above undertakings are as under:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity (in lakh tonnes)</i>	<i>Value (million US \$)</i>
1987-88	1.77	3.15
1988-89	3.83	5.64
1989-90	4.04	3.38*

(* does not include value of imports of TISCO whose figures are not available)

(c) Efforts are no to develop indentified indigenous deposits in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. Besides Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited has also initiated steps to modify their plant so as to switch over from limestone to Bentontis as a binder available indigenously.

Complaints Against MMTC, Cuttack

735. SHRI ANADI CHARANDAS: SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: