

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering various measures to check and contain the prices of iron ore including ban on export of iron ore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that steel manufacturers are facing a lot of hardships due to increase in prices of iron ore; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to contain the prices of iron ore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) With a view to make available iron ore to domestic iron and steel industry at an affordable price, Government of India has imposed an ad-valorem export duty of 15% on all varieties of iron ore *w.e.f.* 13th June, 2008. However, ban on export of iron ore is presently not under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) It has been brought to notice by sponge iron producers and pig iron producers, who procure iron ore mainly on spot basis, that they are facing problems in getting iron ore supply at affordable prices, thereby affecting their economic viability. However, recently, the spot prices of iron ore in the global market have witnessed a declining trend. This is expected to result in decrease in the domestic prices of iron ore also.

RE: PRIVILEGE MOTION AGAINST THE PRIME MINISTER

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, we have moved a privilege motion against the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute please. ...*(Interruptions)*...

REFERENCES BY THE CHAIR—*Contd.*

The victims of Floods in various parts of the Country

MR. CHAIRMAN: As the hon. Members are aware, there have been unprecedented floods in Assam, Orissa, Gujarat and other parts of the country which have resulted in death and devastation on a massive scale. I am sure the whole House will join me in expressing its condolences and sympathies with the affected families.

I request hon. Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of those who lost their lives.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

RE: PRIVILEGE MOTION AGAINST THE PRIME MINISTER—*Contd.*

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Sir, we have moved a privilege motion against the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*...