

term loan assistance will be extended > by SIDBI to State Small Industries Development Corporations, State Infrastructure Development Corporations and other such corporations or authorities engaged in developing industrial areas exclusively for the SSI sector. Preference under the scheme will be given to those projects which are located in rural and semiurban areas or centrally notified backward districts.

(c) All the States and Union Territories are eligible for assistance under this scheme, which has been introduced by SIDBI only on the 4th of December, 1990. Sanctions are yet to be accorded under this scheme.

Winding up of Export Inspection Agency

*114. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have decided to wind up the Export Inspection Agency; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for taking such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Possibility of closure of small foundry units due to hike in import duty on pig iron

*115. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that small foundry units are on the verge of closure because of the increase in import duty on pig iron and curtailment of its domestic production by Steel Authority of India Limited;

(b) whether any representation has been received by Government for reduction in customs duty on imported pig iron, if so, what action have been taken thereon; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to help these small foundry units?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SEN): (a) Auxiliary import duty on pig iron was increased only wr. e. f. 15th December, 1990, along with several other items, and thus closure of foundry units on this account does not arise.

Production of pig iron by SAIL in 1990-91, so far, has decreased. However, total production of pig iron in the country upto November, 1990 has increased by 4.8 per cent over the corresponding period of last year.

(b) and (c) In response to several representations received from Associations of foundry units and State Governments for reduction in customs duty on imported pig iron, the Government had reduced the import duty on pig iron from 45 per cent *ad valorem* to 20 per cent *ad valorem* with effect from 20th September, 1990 for import of 2 lakh tonnes of foundry grade pig iron by MMTC.

Production of Pig Iron is delicensed. Government is encouraging pig iron production in the secondary sector.

Use of electronic voting machine and issue of identity cards to voters

-116. SHRI OHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM;

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the then Chief Election Commissioner, Mrs. Rama Devi held meeting with the Chief Electoral Officers of all the States and Union Territories;

(t>) whether it was unanimously agreed to use electronic voting machines in all the future elections and also to issue multi-purpose identity cards to all voters in the country; and

(c) if so, the estimated expenditure involved in getting electronic voting machines and to issue identity cards?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The consensus in the meeting was in favour of use of electronic voting machines at future elections. No decision was, however, taken in regard to issue of multi-purpose identity cards to voters in the country.

(c) It is estimated that a total number of 6 lakh machines will be required to cover all parliamentary constituencies in the country. The Election Commission has already procured 1.5 lakh machines at the cost of Rs. 75 crores and the remaining 4.5 lakh machines are estimated to cost about Rs. 225 crores.

इस्पात नीति का उदारीकरण

* 117. डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इस्पात विभाग ने इस्पात नीति को और उदार बनाने के लिए कतिपय सुझाव दिये हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या और सरकार द्वारा उन पर क्या निर्णय लिया गया है ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री अशोक कुमार सेन) : (क) और (ख) सरकार ने गीस इस्पात क्षेत्र की उन इकाइयों

जिनकी क्षमता 10 लाख मी० टन प्रति इकाई है और जो ई०ए०एफ०/ऊर्जा इष्टमीकरण प्रौद्योगिक पर आधारित हैं, के लिए अनेक उदार उपाय किए हैं जैसे कि अधुनिकीकरण विस्तार के लिए विद्यमान इकाइयों को अनुमति देना, अग्रगामी और पश्चगामी एकीकरण के लिए सुविधा स्थापित करने और इस्पात तैयार करने के लिए अतिरिक्त क्षमता सृजित करना ।

Export of iron ore

*118. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether considerable amount of high grade iron ore continues to be exported from Bailadila and other mines for want of adequate steel production capacity;

(b) whether large quantities of finished steel are being imported;

(c) if so, the quantum and value in foreign exchange of iron ore exported during 1988, 1989 and 1990 so far;

(d) what additional steel production capacity is proposed to be installed in the country during the Eighth Plan period; and

(e) whether Government contemplate to make value added exports in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SEN): (a) India has been exporting high grade iron ore from the Bailadila and other mines after meeting the requirements of the indigenous steel industry.

(b) On an average, about 1.5 MT of finished steel is imported per annum.