

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) The reserves of Bailadila mines are expected to last for about 40 to 50 years.

(b) Approximately, 156 million tonnes of iron ore have already been extracted till 30-11-1990.

(c) and (d) There is at present no proposal to set up a steel plant in Bastar District. The decision on setting up an integrated steel plant is based on various considerations, such as availability of resources, raw material, market demand for finished product, etc. Proximity to the location of raw material is only one of the factors, among the various factors, among the various factors to be considered.

Establishing Export Oriented Units in the Free Zones in United Arab Emirates

78. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has invited India to establish export oriented small and medium scale units in the free trade zones in UAE;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have since taken any final decision to set up such units in UAE?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) and (b) A high level delegation from UAE that visited India recently in connection with the meeting of the Indo-UAE Joint Commission had meeting with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. During the discussions members of the UAE delegation invited Indian businessmen to establish export oriented small and medium scale units in Free Trade Zones in the UAE. Possible areas of joint ventures identified by the

delegation are telecommunications, computers, electronics and a variety of consumer items.

(c) Requests from individual entrepreneurs for setting up of units in UAE and other countries are considered by the Government on merits as and when received.

IMF Loan for meeting Critical Position of Balance of Payments

79. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision to go for a fresh loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to tide over the critical balance of payment position;

(b) if so, what are the details of the present balance of payment position; and

(c) what fresh steps Government propose to take to maintain favourable balance of payment position?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Discussions are being held with the IMF to explore the possibilities of drawing resources available to member countries, in particular from the Compensatory and Contingency Financing Facility (CCFF).

(b) The foreign exchange reserves level mainly reflect the balance of payment position. The reserves at the end of October, 1990 were Rs. 3820 crores compared to Rs. 5158 crores during the corresponding period in 1989.

(c) In order to maintain favourable balance of payments position, the Government is continuing to implement a package of measures like, improving the disbursement of external assistance, promotion of exports, containment of inessential