

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: I want to know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken by your Ministry to fill up those vacancies from the unemployed youth of our country.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, as I have already told just now, we have taken several initiatives for developing the skilled workers, and, for that, we have already provided Rs. 550 crores. ...*(Interruptions)*... One minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: So, unless the skilled labour comes in various fields, we can't give them employment. We are establishing a number of ITIs, upgrading the ITIs, there are a number of polytechnics and other things. So, that will help. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 268. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Sir, I raise my hand several times but most of the*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. Question No. 268

Demands to ban export of minerals

*268. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the demands to ban export of minerals from the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) There have been demands from time to time for restricting the export of major minerals such as Iron Ore, Manganese Ore and Chrome Ore. While there are quantitative and qualitative restrictions on the export of Manganese and Chrome ore, in respect of Iron Ore, iron ore lumps and fines of Fe content more than 64% are canalised for export. In addition, there are quantitative restrictions in respect of export of high grade Bailadila iron ore. In respect of Iron ore lumps and fines of less than 64% Fe content, there are no restrictions on export. However, iron ore lumps attract a 5% ad valorem export duty.

SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Sir, I want to know whether in view of the escalating demand within the country for iron ore, Manganese and Chromite plus the objective of the Steel Ministry to raise the annual steel production to 120 million tonnes by 2020, which might be exceeded much earlier because of the establishment of a large number of steel plants in the country and MoUs for large capacities, our steel industry is adopting technologies to use low grade iron ore, much lower than 64 per cent Fe on which there is no restriction in export.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask the question.

SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Government reconsider their stand and impose a ban?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, as I have answered, there have been demands to restrict the export of iron ore; but as far as iron ore is concerned, Sir, of iron ore, the Fe content of less than 64 per cent, the exports are permitted and, above that, is canalised. In manganese ore and chrome ore, there are qualitative and quantitative restrictions. Iron ore, which is of Goa origin and Reddy origin, even if it is above 64 per cent, is allowed to be exported. What India exports is the fine ore, not the lumps. Lumps are in very small quantity and India has been traditionally a large exporter, given the fact that the production is huge and there is a gap of demand and production. There is always a surplus in this country even after the exports, and, primarily, I must inform the hon. Member that for fine ore, the sinterization and palletization capacity in the country is much less and if the fine ore is not exported, not only it will reduce the economic activity, export earnings, particularly, the unemployment in the backward and tribal regions, but also be environmentally hazardous.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary, very quickly.

SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: I want to know whether the Government has imposed export duty on iron ore to discourage exports and if not, did they do it as only a resource-raising measure in view of high prices of ore; and, if so, why are they not transferring that to the State? Will you consider transferring that to the States?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

IAF air crashes

*261. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the last 50 days, there have been a series of Indian Air Force (IAF) air crashes (not less than five);
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it means that the IAF has been indifferent in correcting the system failure or human failure; and
- (d) whether there will be an assurance of non-recurrence of these lapses in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) There have been three accidents involving aircraft of the Indian Air Force in the last 50 days. Each accident in the Indian Air Force is investigated through a Court of Inquiry and remedial measures are undertaken accordingly to check their recurrence in future. Besides, a continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway