

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

to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), both indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. In addition, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Discussion held in the summit of G-20

†*263. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the discussion held in the summit of G-20 countries in the month of April, 2009 on the impact of global recession on the entire world; and

(b) the details of suggestions made by member countries including India to tackle global recession?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Summit of the Group of Twenty (G20) countries was held in London on April 2, 2009 with the discussions centred around the collective plan of action of the world's major economies and key international institutions to stabilise the world economy and secure recovery and jobs. The G-20 Leaders issued a 'Global Plan for Recovery and Reform' which pledged significant reforms towards restoring growth and jobs, strengthening of financial supervision and regulation' strengthening of global financial institutions' resisting protectionism and promoting global trade and investment' and ensuring a fair and sustainable recovery for all. In the meeting, India strongly emphasized the need to continue with coordinated contra-cyclical policies within an overall framework of fiscal sustainability and price stability, restore the banking system in the industrialised countries to full functionality, avoid protectionist measures in trade of goods and services by industrialized economies, take concrete steps to ensure adequate credit flows to developing countries and reform the global financial architecture.

Reviving Doha round of negotiations

*269. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a view on reviving the Doha round of negotiations;

(b) the new terms of negotiations that made Government to revive the negotiations;

(c) whether Government has agreed for flexibility in its stand on certain issues, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the impact of such change in stand on the farmers of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) India is committed to a rule-based, multilateral trade regime which is fair and equitable; however the core

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi