

**Taking over of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Company Limited**

645. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government's proposal for taking over of the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Company Limited at Bhadravathi is pending with the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) A request has been made by the Government of Karnataka to the Government of India for take over Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited which is under consideration.

**Customs and Excise duty cases pending against I.T.C.**

646. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of adjudication proceedings relating to customs and excise duty cases pending finalisation as on the 1st March, 1985 against the Indian Tobacco Company;

(b) what is the amount of revenue arrears involved in these proceedings; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure the early and expeditious finalisation of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) 33 Show Cause Notices relating to excise duty cases are pending finalisation as on 1st March, 1981 against the Indian Tobacco Company. The number of Show Cause Notices relating to Customs matters is not readily available.

(b) It is not possible to exactly quantify the amount of revenue involved as the classification, valuation and, sometimes even the excisability of the product are

under dispute and some Show Cause Notices have been issued without indicating the amounts involved.

(c) Such measures (administrative, legal and others) aimed at early and expeditious finalisation of the cases as are considered necessary from time to time, continue to be taken. These include instructions to the officers to expedite adjudication cases, to move the Courts and other quasi-judicial bodies to vacate orders of stay, if any, against proceeding with Show Cause Notices, etc.

**Stay orders obtained by I.T.C. against payment of Government revenue**

647. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the stay orders preventing and/or proceeding further with adjudication proceedings against the Indian Tobacco Company continue to be operative;

(b) what steps Government have taken for getting these Stay Orders vacated; and

(c) what steps Government have taken for the recovery of arrears from the Indian Tobacco Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Increase in Steel prices**

648. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state to what extent the increase in steel prices is likely to bring down the losses incurred by the public sector steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): During 1984-85, the prices of steel were increased twice by the Joint Plant Committee of the main producers. It is estimated that these price increase and the following measures taken by SAIL are likely to result in a modest net profit during 1984-85 after