

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The order of priorities of liabilities of nationalised jute mills is determined by the National Company Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980 and the Jute Companies (Nationalisation) Act, 1980. Under these Acts, a Commissioner of Payments has been appointed to examine the claims regarding liabilities and make payments according to the procedures laid down by the Acts. The question of review of the priorities does not arise.

#### **Import of Sponge Iron from Indonesia**

2132. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted the import of 3 lakh tonnes of sponge iron from Indonesia for increasing the production of mini-steel plants; and

(b) what is the expected increase in production of steel due to this import?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Yield of liquid steel from sponge iron depends mainly on the Fe content, the degree of metallisation and the operating practices. Sponge Iron is used by the ministeel plants in India as a supplement to steel melting scrap. Depending on the method of charging, viz., batch charging or continuous charging, its proportion in the feed varies from 20 per cent to 50 per cent. In India almost all the furnaces are using the batch charging method. As a rule of thumb, 1.2 to

1.3 tonne of sponge iron would produce about a tonne of liquid steel. On this basis, the imported 3 lakh tonnes of sponge iron will add 2.3 to 2.5 lakh tonnes of liquid steel to the overall production of steel.

12 NOON

#### **STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

#### **Correcting the reply given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1981 to Unstarred Question 238 regarding Indian Airlines plan to introduce Airbus service to more cities**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): Sir, in reply to Unstarred Question No. 238 answered in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1981, for the figures: please read "1982-83" in place of "1981-82", a typographical error occurring in the fourth line of the reply

This error did not immediately come to the notice of the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation. As soon as the error was detected, the action was initiated.

#### **PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

#### **I. Report and Accounts (1979-80) of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited. Bombay and related papers**

#### **II. Report and Accounts (1980-81) of the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited Bangalore and related papers**

#### **ID. Report and Accounts (1980-81) of the Hindustan Zinc Limited, Udaipur and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

I. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—