

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Chairman, ITDC had visited Kuwait on 19th and 20th September, 1981 and held informal discussions with the Indian Ambassador at Kuwait and the Regional Director of India Tourist Office with a view to exploring the possibility of securing financial collaboration for ITDC hotels in India.

The Chairman also met three parties in Kuwait who showed interest in an ITDC hotel project in Bombay which is proposed to be set up near the new international air terminal. The discussions were of preliminary nature. Following these discussions, the parties have been given copies of the preliminary project profiles. Further discussions about collaboration will be held on receipt of reaction and response from these parties.

Loss to Bokaro Steel Plant due to Pricing Policy of Steel

871. SHRI R. R. MORARKA:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:
SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the indiscriminate import of steel under Open General Licence and the faulty pricing policy of some categories of steel is expected to result in about Rs. 10 crores loss in Bokaro Steel Plant;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the low level of raw material availability has a telling effect on the production capacity; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):
 (a) Anticipated loss of Bokaro Steel Plant for 1981-82 estimated at Rs. 8

crores cannot be attributed to imports or pricing policy. This can be attributed to several factors but not imports or pricing policy.

(b) Shortage of raw materials this year so far has not adversely affected productivity of the steel plant. Production of steel plant has actually shown improvement.

(c) A close watch is maintained on the stock and supply position of the raw materials including coking coal. Immediate corrective action is taken whenever there is depletion in the stocks of raw materials.

Clearance of project report by SAIL Board for installing a slag cement unit

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

(a) whether it is a fact that though the SAIL Board had cleared the project report about 2½ years back, for installing a slag cement unit as part of Rourkela Steel Plant complex, the same has not been okayed by the Public Investment Board, so far;

(b) what was the capacity of the plant and the investment anticipated; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the project would now entail more than double the investment originally envisaged?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):
 (a) to (c) The proposal for a cement manufacturing unit at Rourkela is under Government's consideration together with a similar proposal for a unit at Bhilai. A decision has not been taken whether there should be split location for these two plants or there should be only one unit. This decision will be taken in the near future and the proposal will be put up to Public Investment Board thereafter.