

Eleventh Plan (upto 31.12.2011) for development and promotion of tourism in Himachal Pradesh.

Setting-up of casinos to promote tourism in the country

†*399. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States have sent their recommendation for setting up of casinos in their States with a view to promote tourism in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to Section 13 of the Gambling Act, these recommendations are not being approved and therefor the State Governments have recommended the proposal of Section 13-A in the Gambling Act; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not approving them?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism has not received any proposal for setting up of casinos. The Ministry is also not concerned with the administration of the Gambling Act.

Efficiency of steel industry

*400 SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian steel industry is less efficient and there is a need for improvement;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken in this direction so far?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (c) Production of finished steel for sale in the country has been consistently higher than the real consumption of steel. As such, functioning of the Indian Steel Industry has been generally satisfactory. However, in some of the steel units which were installed decades ago, there is a need to adopt latest technologies for their upgradation/modernization so as to make them more efficient and viable. Recently, new techno-economic benchmarks on international pattern have been evolved for improvement in performance of steel public sector enterprises and its implementation is monitored on a regular basis. A roadmap for Research and Development for steel industry has been finalized and adopted with a special focus on beneficiation, coal ash reduction and promotion of production of high grade value added steel in the country. Steel making companies like SAIL and RINL both have launched massive expansion! modernization programmes with a view to adopt modern technology

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.