

Production of iron ore

3823. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of iron ore in the country is more than the requirement of steel industry; and

(b) if so, why Government has kept the Steel in deregulated sector and confined its role to that of a facilitator, when the consumption of steel in the country is constantly increasing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) The production of iron ore is sufficient to meet the current demand/consumption of iron ore by domestic steel industry.

(b) The steel sector was deregulated in January, 1992 with a view to make the steel industry efficient and competitive. Decisions on investment in this sector are taken by individual companies, both in public and private sector, based on the commercial considerations and market dynamics.

Strategies to augment tourism

3824. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no Indian city is in the list of top 20 most visited cities in the world, a list topped by Hong Kong, London, Bangkok and Singapore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government has devised a strategy to deal with issues such as shortage of accommodation at different budget levels, poor infrastructure and connections, filth on the roads and in public places, lack of clean toilets during travel, unhygienic food and safety of female tourists, etc., plaguing Indian tourism industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI K. J. ALPHONS): (a) As per the media reports, Destination Cities Index brought out by Mastercard in September, 2017, no Indian city is in the list of top 20 most visited cities in the world. However, in the same report Chennai (India) is at 10th position in Asia and Pacific region.

(b) Some of the factors responsible for Tourist Arrivals in any city, including