

(a) the position of foreign exchange reserves as on 15th December 1990;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision to take loan from the International Monetary Fund to tide over the crisis; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to invoke article 360 of the constitution to meet the financial crisis that is confronting the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Rs. 3820.45 cr. at the end of October, 1990.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

Demand for Non-Judicial Stamp Papers

396. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing demand for non-judicial stamp and allied forms and the non-availability of these forms every now and then;

(b) if so, the step taken by Government to ensure the regular supply of these forms;

(c) whether Government contemplate to set-up Security Press in Orissa to meet the increasing demand of the State and of the Eastern Region;

(d) if so, the time by which it will be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). There has been marginal increase

in demand for non-judicial stamp and allied forms in the last two/three years. To meet the increase in demand, Government have taken various steps viz. stepping up the production of stamp paper and allied forms at Security Printing Presses, rationalization of production by phasing out of low non-security items, etc. Some logistic problems exist in the distribution of these items as they have to be made available at over 600 Treasuries in the country. State Governments have been advised to accept the supplies of these items at certain nodal points and in wagon loads for onward re-distribution.

(c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration with the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Technology at Alloy Steel Plant Durgapur

397. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ALLOY STEEL PLANT, Durgapur has entered into a know how update agreement with an Austrian Company in order to improve its performance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the nature of other short term and long term measures proposed to be undertaken to consolidate the technological improvements in the Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. An agreement for consultancy service has been entered into by SAIL with M/s. VOEST ALPINE INDUSTRIAL SERVICE of Austria, on October 14, 1988 to improve the technology and productivity of Alloy Steels Plant (ASP), Durgapur. This agreement is valid for

four years starting from April, 1989.

(c) Several infrastructural upgradation measures costing a total of Rs. 64 crores are under consideration for improving production, productivity, yield, techno-economic parameters and logistics in the plant. Besides, production build-up to attain the expanded capacity of 2.6 lakh tonnes of liquid steel is being undertaken.

Small/Mini Steel Plants in Private Sector

398. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private companies have applied for setting up small/mini steel plants after Government lifted the curb on private sector setting up of steel plants;

(b) if so, the number of applications, pending with the Government; and

(c) the places for which applications have been submitted by private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 16.

(c) Applications have been submitted for the following locations:

Ghaziabad, Gouriganj (District Sultanpur) in Uttar Pradesh; Sukinda (District Cuttack), Keonjhar in Orissa; Jagdalpur, Borai (District Durg) (2), Raipur, Raigarh in Madhya Pradesh; Perambur (District Dakshina Kannada), Vijayanagar in Karnataka; Kothur (District Mahaboob Nagar) in Andhra Pradesh, Butibori (near Nagpur) (2) in Maharashtra, and Goa (2).

Export of Iron Ore to Japan

399. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether iron ore is being exported to Japan, and if so, since when;

(b) the total quantum of iron ore being exported to Japan annually and from which mines;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed with Japan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL):

(a) Iron Ore is an item of exports to Japan for nearly four decades now.

(b) Quantities of Iron Ore exported to Japan during the last five years have been as under:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Qty. in million tonnes</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
1985-86	20.054
1986-87	21.587
1987-88	19.944
1988-89	21.341
1989-90(Prov.)	21.052

The mines from which Iron Ore is being exported to Japan are—

(i) Barajamda-Banspani in Orissa

(ii) Bailadila in Madhya Pradesh