

several steps such as augmentation of staff strength, upgradation of office facilities including computerisation, review of systems and procedures in order to reduce delays, regular inspection of passport offices and follow-up action.

(c) and (d) For functional and practical reasons, it has not been found possible to fix a time limit for the issue of a fresh passport. The issue of a passport involves several steps including scrutiny of the application and required documentation; processing; police verification; and, preparation and issue of the passport. The number of applications received in a given office also has a bearing on the time taken for the issue of a passport; as also the availability of infrastructure including staff strength. Keeping in view MHA's concurrence that a passport may be issued if a police verification report is not received in three week's time, the endeavour of the passport offices is to issue a passport in a period of about one month.

[English]

#### KACHCHATIVU AGREEMENT

\*195. **Shri S. S. R. Rajendra Kumar** : Will the **Minister of External Affairs** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the fishermen of Tamil Nadu are facing difficulties in their traditional fishing activities in and around Kachchativu in the Palk-Straits; and

(b) if so, the progress made in regard to the steps being taken by the Union Government to restore the traditional rights of Indian fishermen for access to Kachchativu as guaranteed under the Maritime Boundary Agreements of 1974 and 1976 with Sri Lanka ?

**The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Pranab Mukherjee)** : (a) and (b) the Maritime Boundary Agreements of 1974 and 1976 safeguard the traditional rights of Indian fishermen for access to Kachchativu for resting, drying their nets and attending the annual St. Anthony's festival. Fulfillment of these traditional rights has been in abeyance since 1983 due to adverse security situation prevailing in the Palk Straits as a result of the conflict between the Sri Lanka government and the LTTE, causing difficulties to the fishermen of Tamil Nadu. These traditional rights however, do not include the right to fish in and around Kachchativu. The question of the restoration of traditional rights of Indian fishermen for access to Kachchativu area, as guaranteed under the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Agreements of 1974 and 1976, has been under discussion between the two Governments.

#### IRON ORE PRODUCTION AND EXPORT IN GOA

\*196. **Shri Harish Naryan Prabhu Zantye** : Will the **Minister of Steel** be pleased to state :

(a) the total iron ore production in the country for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise by ore-grades in terms of quantity and value along with tentative targets for the current year particularly for Goa;

(b) the total quantity of iron-ore exported during the last three years, year-wise particularly, from Goa State and foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) the quantity of low grade ore converted into high grade by setting up upgradation plants in Goa and the quantity of such ore exported and foreign exchange earned; and

(d) the details of such projects proposed to be set up in Goa during the next three years and the impact thereof ?

**The Minister of State of the Ministry of Steel (Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev)** : (a) The information is at the enclosed **Statements I & II**. No targets are fixed by the Government for private sector.

(b) Details of iron ore exports from India (including Goa) and from Goa separately for the last three years are as under :

Year	India		Goa Only	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1992-93	27.86	1502.97	12.78	530.18
1993-94	31.94	1640.46	15.15	591.12
1994-95 (Prov.)	31.75	1561.49	14.75	531.95

(Quantity : in million tonnes)  
(Value : in Rs./crores)

(c) As per information available from Goa Mineral Ore Exporters Association all the iron ore exported from Goa is processed iron ore and the low grade ore is upgraded by washing and beneficiation.

(d) As per present Industrial Policy no permission is required for setting up of plants for upgradation of low grade iron ore.

#### Statement-I

#### State-wise/Zone-wise Production of Iron Ore in India

(In Million Tonnes)

Sl. No.	Zone/State	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (Prov.)
1.	<b>Zone A</b>			
	(i) Bihar	9.90	10.43	12.00
	(ii) Orissa	7.85	6.71	7.04
	Sub Total Zone A	<u>17.75</u>	<u>17.14</u>	<u>19.04</u>
2.	<b>Zone B</b>			
	(i) Madhya Pradesh	14.18	15.10	15.87
	(ii) Maharashtra	0.04	0.04	0.12
	Sub Total Zone B	<u>14.22</u>	<u>15.14</u>	<u>15.99</u>
3.	<b>Zone C</b>			
	Karnataka	11.04	12.26	12.22
4.	<b>Zone D</b>			
	Goa	12.62	12.74	13.26
5.	<b>Zone E</b>			
	(i) Andhra Pradesh	0.15	0.17	0.17
	(ii) Rajasthan	0.03	0.02	0.02
	Sub Total Zone E	<u>0.18</u>	<u>0.19</u>	<u>0.19</u>
	Grand Total India	<u>55.81</u>	<u>57.47</u>	<u>60.70</u>