

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS):** (a) Yes, Sir, the Government of India are co-operating in the conservation of 2 Buddha Colossi with shrines around them at Bamian and the Khwaja Parsa mosque at Balkh.

The Government of India have also cooperated with the Government of Afghanistan in establishing an industrial estate for small scale industries at Kabul. Currently an Indian experts' team is in Afghanistan to prepare feasibility reports for setting up industrial estates in Kandahar, Harat and Balkh. Its reports are expected to be ready very soon.

(b) Decisions relating to cooperation in economic and technical areas between the Governments of India and Afghanistan are taken in the Indo-Afghan Joint Commission and information pertaining to these decisions are given adequate publicity through communiques and press releases. The External Publicity Division has brought out a booklet entitled 'The Buddha in Afghanistan: India's Aid to Bring Bamian back to Life'.

#### **Loss on Sales by IISCO Stockyards**

1058 **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether escalation in prices of certain steel items came into effect from 31st March, 1976,

(b) whether Indian Iron and Steel stockyards at Calcutta, Delhi and Bombay, continued to make sales on that day (31-3-76), at the earlier prices, and on credit, to certain private traders, thereby benefiting the latter and incurring heavy losses for the company; and

(c) if so, whether such malpractices have been inquired into, and with what result?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD):** (a) The prices of steel were increased by the Joint Plant Committee with effect from 1st April, 1976 consequent upon the increase in railway freight rates.

(b) Sales were made by IISCO stockyards on 31-3-1976 at prices ruling on that date, and in some cases sales were effected on credit as per their normal commercial practice.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Sale of Steel "Defectives", Etc. by IISCO Stockyards**

1059 **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) the quantity of steel sold as (A) "Defectives", (B) "Non-standard", cut down steel, and (C) "Standard" steel of tested quality through the IISCO stockyards at Calcutta, Delhi and Bombay, month by month, during the financial year, 1975-76, to (i) consumers direct and (ii) private traders, and

(b) whether he will order an inquiry into the reported allegations that large quantities of steel are fraudulently shown as "Defectives", and "Non-standard", to make personal gains in collusion with private traders?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD):** (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.