

(c) In order to provide relief to Indian Sponge Iron Industry, Government had in the budget for 1994-95, reduced custom duty on Iron Ore Pellets from 15% to 10% and on non-coking coal from 85% to 35%. Custom Duty on Iron Ore Pellets was further reduced to 5% from 26.4.1994.

Secondary Steel Units

6591. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHY :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Secondary Steel Units in the country are lying sick;

(b) if so, the total number of such units that were functioning in the country during 1994-95, the number of units out of them that have become sick and the total annual production capacity of these sick units;

(c) whether the Government had appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Commissioner of Iron and Steel Development for giving suggestions for the revival of these sick units; and

(d) if so, when this committee was appointed, the names of the members of this committee and by when the committee is expected to give its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). In the secondary sector, out of 182 electric arc furnace units producing steel, while 95 were reported functioning during 1994-95, 1 unit with a capacity of approximately 36,000 tonnes has been declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) during 1994 and 1995 (upto April), in terms of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) as amended from time to time.

(c) and (d). The Government had not appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel for giving suggestions for the revival of these sick units.

[English]

Exchange of Enclaves

6592. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the Government of Bangladesh have indicated that Bangladesh would not discuss the issue of exchange of enclaves unless the Farakka water dispute is resolved;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps have since been taken to secure the exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh;

(d) whether it is fact that tension is building up in the border areas of Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar districts of West Bengal; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The Government of Bangladesh have not indicated such a stand to the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government remain committed to the full implementation of the provisions of the Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement, 1974 including the exchange of enclaves. Efforts are underway to complete procedural formalities pertaining to the 1974 Agreement both in the Centre and concerned State Governments.

(d) and (e). The situation in the border districts along the Indo-Bangladesh border is kept under constant watch. Government remain vigilant to defuse any possible tension.

[Translation]

Registration of Vehicles

6593. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to register only those vehicles in Delhi, which will be fitted with catalytic converter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) & (b). No, Sir. As per the Government Notification dt. 22.3.95, it has been made mandatory that with effect from 1st April, 1995, all four wheeler petrol driven vehicles which are registered on first sale in the cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, shall have fitted a noble metal based catalytic converter of atleast an oxidative type and with an OEM certification.

(c) At present, fitment of catalytic converter is required only for four-wheeled petrol driven vehicles.

Purchase of Power Plant

6594. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :
SHRI JAGMIT SINGH BRAR :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated April 2, 1995 under the caption "competitively bought equipment can reduce cost"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The policy to encourage private sector participation in the Power Sector has been formulated