

[*Translation*]

### Price of Iron

5960. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steep rise in the price of Iron bars, an essential input in construction works, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this item is available to the public at reasonable price; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to control its price?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c). The basic steel materials used in construction are mainly deformed bars. These are produced by both main producers and the secondary re-rolling sector. The price of items produced by main producers viz. SAIL, TISCO and IISCO which account for about 20% of the total demand for this item in the country, are fixed by the Joint Plant Committee. There has been a marginal increase of about Rs. 105 per tonne on account of excise duty revision from 20.3.90. The secondary sector fixes its own price.

[*English*]

### Khusro Committee Report

5961. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khusro Committee Report on Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) has been examined by Government;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by

the Khusro Committee and the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) the persons or the agencies held responsible for this faulty implementation of the Integrated Rural Development Programme and action contemplated against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). The Agricultural Credit Review Committee, also known as Khusro Committee, has reviewed the working of the rural financial system in the country. It has also commented on the credit linked poverty alleviation programmes including Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). The Committee has drawn attention to some of the deficiencies in the implementation of IRDP, such as identification of beneficiaries, choice of economic activities, insufficient income generation from the assets. The shortcomings referred to in the Committee's report, so far as the implementation of IRDP is concerned, are of procedural nature. The report does not mention any instances of faulty implementation of the programme by an individual or agency. Hence the question of taking action in this account does not arise.

### Exploration for Tapping Ocean Bed

5962. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientific explorations were conducted in recent years to tap the ocean bed in India's territorial waters for minerals;

(b) the results of those experiments; and

(c) the schemes under consideration to utilise the minerals of the ocean bed to augment the mineral resources in the country?