

[*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?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The surveys have revealed the occurrences of placer minerals like ilmenite, rutile, zircon and monazite in the near coastal area off Gopalpur, Kaligapatnam, Pondicherry, Quilon-Muttam and Ratnagiri.

(c) There are no schemes under consideration to utilise the minerals of the ocean bed in India's territorial waters at present.

12.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI R.N. RAKESH (Chail) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Harijans are being burnt alive in Shri V.P. Singh's Constituency. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAG PAL SINGH (Hardwar) : Atrocities are being committed on Harijans. You have not allowed a discussion on atrocities being committed on Harijans. ... (*Interruptions*)....

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Sarvashri K.S. Rao, K.V. Thomas, Vasant Sathe, Harish Rawat, P.R. Kumaramangalam and Janardhana Poojary have tabled notices under rule 193 regarding allegations reported to have been made by the Deputy Prime Minister in his letter to the Prime Minister about the activities of Indian Express etc. Shri Vasant Sathe has also enclosed some documents with his notice. The matter referred to in the notices is a matter between the Deputy Prime Minister and the Prime Minister. Under rule 186 (xvii), a notice shall not refer to or seek disclosure of information about matters which are in their nature secret. Also under rule 186 (iii), a notice shall not refer to the conduct

or character of persons except in their public capacity. Correspondence between Cabinet Ministers is privileged.

In view of the above, the notices tabled by hon. Members are inadmissible and have been disallowed in so far as they are based on the alleged letter.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no discussion on that.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem) : Sir, in my notice, I have categorically stated that no reference to the letter...

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot speak on this any further.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I am not questioning your ruling. I am accepting your ruling. If I may make my submission, I am not questioning your ruling. The issue is not whether the letter contained this or it contained that. We should like to know what action has been taken by the Government against the alleged violations. How would you permit us to raise it? How would you like us to raise it?

MR. SPEAKER: In Your notice you have referred to that letter also.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: In my notice I have categorically stated. I am not challenging your ruling. I am seeking your guidance. Will you permit us to raise this either through a Calling Attention or Discussion under Rule 193? What action has been taken against the Indian Express Group?

MR. SPEAKER: You may come and discuss about the matter with me. We have