

mineral conservation and protection of natural environment. The provisions of the statute are equally applicable to both big and small mines.

(b) Only with a view to achieve the aforesaid objects of mineral development and conservation, the provision of submitting mining plan, irrespective of size of mines, was incorporated through suitable amendments in the statute in 1987. Therefore, no relaxation to exempt any category of mines is contemplated.

(c) A change in the timing of submission of mining plan for grant of mining lease has already been made through an amendment to the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 with effect from 19.10.1989. An applicant can now submit the duly approved mining plan within a period of six months after the precise area of the proposed lease is communicated to him by the State Government.

#### **Promotion of Tourism**

8373 SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether tourist industry has been hit hard by recent hike in domestic fares which cover Indian Airlines, Vayudoot and Railways, and

(b) the steps taken to create awareness abroad about India as a tourist destination and the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK) (a) The flow of tourist traffic to India is not very price sensitive. The main motivations for foreign tourists to India are the variety of attractions and the cultural heritage of the country.

(b) The Overseas offices of the Department of Tourism create awareness about India abroad and promote it as a tourist destination through a sustained marketing strategy which includes printing/distribution of tourist literature, posters, production of films and audiovisuals and publicity through press, Television, and other promotional activities such as participating in Trade Fairs, holding of Seminars, Conferences, India Evenings etc.

As a result of these measures the tourist arrivals in 1989 increased by 7.8% from the previous year.

[English]

#### **Alleged Intermediaries Role in Purchase of Steel Plant machinery for Steel Plants**

8374 SHRIBALGOPAL MISHRA Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the role of some businessmen as alleged intermediaries in the purchase of steel plant machinery for Vizag and other steel plants

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and

(c) the steps being taken to bring the intermediaries to book?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise

#### **Missing Bofors Counter Trade Files**

8375 SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state