

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a steel stock yard at Jodhpur Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GO-SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The current level of supplies in and around Jodhpur area do not justify setting up of a separate stock-yard at Jodhpur.

Promotions in Income Tax Department

1523. SHRI GOPAL PACHER-WAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 40 point roster at the time of promotions in the Income-tax Department is implemented;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates have been promoted in their respective points, during the last three years;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the reserved posts of Inspectors in the Income tax Department, Delhi were filled up from general category inspite of the availability of suitable SC/ST candidates;

(f) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the justification thereof; and

(g) the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, except in very few cases where suitable SC/ST candidates were not available.

(e) No, Sir.

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(f) and (g) Does not arise.

[English]

Liberalisation of Steel Policy to encourage Growth of Steel Units in Private Sector

1524. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have liberalised the steel policy with a provision to encourage growth of steel units in private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications received State-wise for industrial licence for setting up such units and how many have been cleared so far; and

(d) the details of such proposal received from the State of Maharashtra, estimated cost of the proposals submitted, proposed, cleared and pending?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GO-SWAMI): (a) and (b) It has been decided to allow creation of additional steel making capacity in the private sector with unit capacity upto one million tonnes based on electric arc furnace/energy optimising technologies including small blast furnaces. Entrepreneurs will have the option to decide the plant size keeping in view the product mix and technology to be adopted.

(c) and (d) Applications are being invited.

Setting up of Nodal Agency for Pig Iron Distribution

1525. SHRI S.B. THORAT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a Nodal Agency for pig-iron distribution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time likely to be taken for final decision in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export Potential of Export Processing Zones

1526. SHRI C. SRINIVASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made on the export potential of Export Processing Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to stimulate the exports of these zones; and

(d) the total investment made on the setting up of these zones?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in its study on "Free Trade Zones" in selected developing countries has noted that exports from the six Export Processing Zones during 1988-89 was Rs. 516 crores i.e. about 2.6% of our total exports. The Study has stated that the zones have a positive role to play in expanding net foreign exchange earnings from manufactured exports. To fully exploit their export potential, a number of suggestions have been made which, *inter-alia*, include improvement of infrastructure, streamlining of procedures, setting up of a national authority for the zones and a more liberal incentive package.

(c) Steps have been taken to revamp the Scheme of Export Processing Zones with a view to improve the incentives and to simplify the rules and procedures to further stimulate exports from these zones.

(d) The total investment made by Government on the setting up of the zones since inception is Rs. 99.20 crores.

Aid by Consciousness International Foundation

1527. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consciousness International Foundation has included India in their impressive plan to aid the poor and the destitute throughout the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the poor and the destitute persons will be benefitted by their plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No information on this subject is available with the Ministry of Finance.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Financial aid to Small Rubber Growers

1528. SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the financial aid to small rubber growers for the first seven years of cultivation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by what time the scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c) The Rubber Board has proposed for the enhancement of subsidy for the benefit of all rubber growers in the 8th Plan proposals submitted by them. The details of assistance proposed to be granted are pending finalisation of the 8th Plan outlays.