

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Bill to suspend aid to India introduced" appearing in the 'Statesman' (New Delhi) dated 30 April, 1990; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to present India's view in proper perspective and dispel the anti-India campaign and lobby?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bill in question introduced by Congressman Dan Burton (Republican-Indiana) seeks to terminate US assistance to India unless the Government of India gives access to representatives of Amnesty International and other Human Rights Organisations. The Amnesty International itself has formally dissociated itself from the Bill which does not seem to enjoy widespread Congressional support

The Government's position has been fully explained to the US Government and influential members of the US Congress.

Visakhapatnam Port Trust Loss on Export of Iron-ore

9124. SHRI BASAVAPUNNAIAH SINGAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the imports and exports cargo handled by the Visakhapatnam Port Trust during the last three years;

(b) whether Visakhapatnam Port Trust is incurring losses on iron-ore export to Japan; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take to compensate the Visakhapatnam Port Trust for this loss and by when?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKISHNAN): (a) The import and export cargo handled by the Visakhapatnam Port Trust during the last three years are given below:

(in million tonnes)

	1987-88	88-89	89-90
1	2	3	4
Import	6.965	8.601	9.338
Export	7.810	10.031	10.707

(b) In the accounts of Visakhapatnam Port Trust, the profit or loss of the iron ore operations are not separately shown or audited. According to information furnished by the Port Trust, if the iron ore operations are shown separately, the Port Trust incurred a loss of Rs. 8.96 crores in 1987-88, Rs. 5-19 crores in 88-89 and Rs. 0.17 crores in 89-90.

(c) During the period referred to above, Visakhapatnam Port Trust has made profit in their operation as a whole. Government have also sanctioned increase in the iron ore handling rate from Rs. 27.00 per tonne to Rs. 40.92 per tonne for the years 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89. The rate was further increased to Rs. 50.00 per tonne for the year 1989-90.