

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The impact of recent developments in the Soviet Union on the steel sector essentially relates to the utilisation on undischursed credit and supply of plant and equipment for the steel plants. The Minister for External Affairs has recently visited Moscow and discussed various aspects of India's economic cooperation with the Soviet Union. The discussions have revealed that there was a genuine desire on the part of the Soviets and Russian leadership to address all problems with a view to finding early solutions to them and that existing agreements on economic cooperation would be honoured. The problems will be further discussed in greater detail during the visit to Moscow of a high level multi-disciplinary group from India which will meet their counterparts, both from the USSR and also from the Russian Federation. It is not, therefore, possible to definitively assess the impact, if any, of the recent developments in the Soviet Union on the steel sector projects at this stage.

Atrocities on women

*234. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidence of atrocities on woman is on increase in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have initiated a number of legislative measures to protect the rights of women;

(c) if so, whether the said laws have not been implemented by Government despite persistant demands

by a large number of voluntary organisations; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): As per data furnished by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of cases of Crimes against women registered during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Total crimes against women registered in the country
1988	48,493
1989	55,252
1990	43,881

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The implementation of the laws relating to rights of women is the responsible of the State Government/UT Administrations. Their enforcement machineries are to register, investigate and initiate prosecution of crimes against woman and it is the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations to monitor them effectively.

In addition, a number of legislative measures have been undertaken by the Government to protect the rights of women. These relate to the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Indian Evidence Act, the Indian Penal Code, the Dowry (Prohibition) Act, 1961, the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1987 and the Indecent Representation of Women (Prevention) Act, 1986. These laws have been amended from time to time to make the provisions more stringent and punitive so that the status of women in society is raised and atrocities against them can be curbed. All efforts are being made by Government to implement these laws. The Central Government has

issued instructions to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to implement these laws in an effective manner. Atrocities against women are a reflection of deeper social, cultural and economic factors as well. By mere formulation of laws for women alone it will not be possible to assure an equal status for women in society. Along with the effective implementation of laws it is necessary to bring about attitudinal changes in society, and complete and voluntary agencies to ensure women of India a rightful place in society.

Clearance of Irrigation Projects of Maharashtra

@*235. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

@Previously Starred Question 195, transferred from the 4th December, 1991.

(a) the number of irrigation projects of Maharashtra which have been pending clearance for more than two years; and

(b) what is the number of projects cleared so far and by when clearance in respect of the rest is likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) A statement giving the status of appraisal of major and medium irrigation projects of Maharashtra received up to 1989 and not given investment clearance is laid on the Table of the House. (See below).

(b) No project has been given investment clearance during the last two years. The clearance of the project depends upon how soon the State Government complies with the observations of Central Appraising Agencies.

Statement

Status of Appraisal of Major and Medium irrigation projects received upto 1989 and not given investment clearance

Sl.No	Category	Major	Medium
1	Techno-economically examined and recommended to Planning Commission for investment clearance,	3	1
2	Techno-economically examined and found acceptable by the Advisory Committee subject to compliance of certain observations such as obtaining clearance from environment and/or Forest angles, concurrence of State Planning and Finance Department, conjunctive use of ground water etc,	8	17
3	Techno-economically appraised but consideration deferred by Advisory Committee due to non clearance from a environment and forest angles,	1	..
	Techno-economic aspects examined and comments sent to State Government for compliance,	..	2
Total:		12	20