

Kerala State Co-operative Marketing Federation during last year;

(b) what is the extent of loss suffered by Markfed in this regard;

(c) whether the Central Government have given grant/subsidy to cover up the loss, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps are being taken by the Central Government to stabilise the market price of copra and also give relief to coconut growers throughout the country?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON):** (a) During 1985-86, the Kerala State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd. (MARKFED) purchased 11,110 tonnes of copra under its own and state price support schemes.

(b) The losses incurred by MARKFED on the operations are yet to be finalised.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The market intervention scheme evolved by the Central Government envisaging purchase of copra at Rs. 1200/- per qtl. of Fair Average Quality is a measure to facilitate reasonable returns on copra and benefit Coconut growers. As a result, the market price has since been stabilised and ruling above the indicative price.

#### **British assistance for modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant**

**\*134. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH:**

**SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:**

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.K. has agreed to finance the modernisation of the Durgapur Steel Plant;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when modernisation is likely to be completed?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT):** (a) and (b) In preliminary discussions with the Government of U.K., they have shown their willingness to offer financial aid for the modernisation of the Durgapur Steel Plant.

(c) The time frame of completion of the modernisation proposal will be known after the scheme is approved by Government.

#### **Coverage of public meetings of political parties by Doordarshan**

**\*135. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any guidelines for coverage by Doordarshan of the public meetings and functions arranged by various political parties; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL):** (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The guidelines provide that political activities are noticed by Doordarshan strictly on the basis of their news worthiness and in the matter of coverages of political parties there is no bias in favour of one party or the other.

#### **Scholarship racket**

**\*136. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:**

**SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:**

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a multimillion rupee scholarship racket has