

The successful launching of the recent SLV satellite;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the achievements in space research would be applicable for defence purposes like delivering IRBMS etc.; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) The recent launch of Rohini Satellite RS-D2 while making an important phase in the launch vehicle project is a part of the over-all development programme for launchers capable of putting in space national remote sensing satellites, and in the future, geo-synchronous satellites. The Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle Project (ASLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle Project (PSLV) recently approved by Government, will considerably increase launch vehicle capability. The Space Research and Development Profile for the Decade 1980—90 approved by the Government even before this launch, provides relevant framework.

(b) Copies of the Space Research and Development Profile for the Decade 1980—90 approved by the Government were laid on the table of the House on August 20, 1981. Details of Indian Space Programme are reported in the Annual Reports of the Department of Space.

(c) Government have no proposals to apply these for defence applications. The basic applications objectives of the Indian Space Programme are to meet national needs in satellite communications and remote sensing for resources survey and management in self-reliant way.

(d) Does not arise.

Investment by private sector

1133. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Government have recently urged the Central Government to ensure that there is massive private sector investment in West Bengal to create adequate employment opportunities there; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Government have not received any such specific proposal from the Government of West Bengal.

(b) Does not arise.

Soviet financial assistance for steel plant at Visakhapatnam

1134. SHRI B. KRISHNA MOHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soviet Union has offered financial assistance for the second phase of the steel plant at Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance;

(c) by when the plant is likely to start the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of USSR has agreed to extend an additional 140 million Rouble credit for meeting the expenses incurred on import of equipments and services for the construction of the second stage of Visakhapatnam Steel Project. This credit carries an interest rate of 2.5 per cent annum.

(c) The Visakhapatnam Steel Project is expected to commence production by early 1986.